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BIRTHS.

On the 21st October, at Yokohama, the wife of ALF. WOOLLEY, of a son.

On the 28th October, at No. 12, Seymour Terrace, the wife of H. CROMBIE, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Kobe, on the 18th October, at the British Consulate, by Mr. J. C. Hall, and afterwards at the Union Church by the Rev. H. J. Foss, M.A., CHARLES THWAITES, to LETIA JANE CABELDU.

On the 21st October, 1897, at the British Consulate, Chefoo, Dr. J. NORMAN CASE, of Weihaiwei, to Miss E. RUTH FARWIG, of Laohekou.

At the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., on the 25th October, 1897, JAMES HENRY RESTARRICK JOHNS, to MARY MUTTER BLAIR GATE, eldest daughter of Capt. GATE, of Greenock.

On the 27th October, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., W. A. DUNCAN COOPER, M.D., M.B., C.M., eldest son of the late William COOPER, A.M.I.C.E., P. & O. S. N. Co., to JEANNIE PRENTICE LAW, eldest daughter of the late Alexander LAW, Shanghai.

On the 28th October, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and afterwards at the Masonic Hall, by the Rev. Samuel Dyer, B.A., PAUL O'BRIEN EDWARD TWIGG, to ELLEN ADELAIDE JESSUP-CLARK.

On the 28th October, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., HERBERT ALFRED JOHN, second son of the Rev. W. D. MACRAY, Ducklington, Oxon., to MARGARET ANN, third daughter of the late Neil SINCLAIR, Esq., Glasgow.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 23rd October, 1897, WILLIAM MCNEIL, aged 38 years, Boilermaker, Messrs. Boyd & Co., native of Glasgow, Scotland.

At Foochow, on the 25th October, MURIEL URSLA, daughter of WILLIAM and URSLA WISFRED GRAHAM, aged eight days.

At the Kiangyin Forts, on the 26th October, 1897, HU JAU, the wife of John JÜRGENS, aged 37 years.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 30th October, 1897, JAMES SAMPSON, aged 38 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The English mail of the 1st October arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, on the 31st October (30 days); the American mail of the 2nd October arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 1st November (30 days); and the Canadian mail of the 11th October arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 2nd November (22 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is now definitely settled that Sir Claude Macdonald will not visit Shanghai this year.

Mr. W. Fisher has been elected Chairman of the Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce in place of Mr. E. Cousins, who is leaving the port.

According to a Japanese press despatch Sir E. Satow, the British Minister to Japan, left London on the 4th October and is expected in Tokyo about the 20th November.

Rear-Admiral Oxley's successor as second in command on the China station is Rear-Admiral Fitzgerald, who leaves England this month in the *Edgar*, which is coming out with naval reliefs.

Owing to the rumours that the Russian Volunteer steamer *Kostroma* had gone on shore in the Red Sea, the Agents at Shanghai wired to the Managing Committee at home to ascertain the true state of affairs. It appears that the *Kostroma* ran on the Elbo Reef, but assistance was promptly sent to her and there are good prospects of floating her. All on board were quite safe.

A Japanese Imperial Ordinance has been issued, announcing that for the time being silver yen, impressed with a mark by the Government will be legal tender at the Government offices in Formosa, and also for payment by the Government in Formosa, at current rates. Foreign currency and Japanese silver yen which have been privately chopped will not be accepted as legal tender at the Government offices.

On the 19th October, in H.B.M.'s Court of Japan, at Yokohama, an Admiralty Court was held, Judge Wilkinson presiding, and having Commander Grafton, R.N., and Captain Conradi, of the s.s. *Oolong* as assessors, to adjudicate on a claim of 30,000 yen made by the owners of the s.s. *Melpomene* against the owners of the s.s. *Patroclus* as damages for injuries caused by a collision which occurred in the harbour of Yokohama on September 9th, when a typhoon was blowing. Mr. Lowder appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. Walford for the defendants. The hearing was still proceeding at the date of last advices.

The *Straits Times* states, on the authority of a passenger by the *Sumatra*, that at sea Mrs. Carew is given full liberty, and has dined in the saloon with the other passengers. She is, apparently, in good health.

The vernacular press of Japan, says the *Japan Mail*, is full of notices concerning the visit to Japan of Mr. Kahn, a representative of the well-known French banking house—Kahn and Kahn—and the purchases he is making of Japanese War Bonds. He is said to have already secured 100,000 yen worth through the agency of Messrs. Shibusawa and Okura, and to intend buying more when opportunity offers.

According to a Tokyo press despatch of the 21st October, the U.S. Government has advised the Government of Hawaii to speedily settle the immigration question. Until that is done, the U.S. Government suggests that Japan will continue to strongly object to the incorporation of Hawaii with the United States. The Japanese Government has demanded from the Government of Hawaii compensation amounting to 400,000 yen.

A case of some importance has come up before the Mixed Court at Shanghai, the International Cotton Manufacturing Co., Limited, claiming from the Yue Yuen Cotton Spinning Co. the sum of \$20,000 for an alleged infringement of their trade mark. Mr. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. Drummond for the defendants, between whom a lengthy argument took place as to whether there were any trade mark regulations recognised in China, the case being adjourned to await the decision of the Magistrate as to whether plaintiffs had the exclusive right to their trade mark, and, if so, whether the two were alike.

An Amoy despatch states that a large quantity of coal from the newly opened mines of the Chinayungho Mining Co.'s property in the South T'aiwan range of hills, not far from Amoy, had lately arrived at that port and had been tried by several coasting steamers and Chinese gunboats, whose officers declared that the new coal made splendid fuel, quite equal, if not superior, to the Moji coal. In consequence of these favourable reports the Foochow Arsenal authorities have recently placed large orders with the Chinayungho Mining Co., to be delivered within three months from date of contract.—*N.C. Daily News*.

Lord Rosmead (formerly Sir Hercules Robinson), whose death is announced by Reuter, was the second son of the late Admiral Robinson, of Westmeath, and was born in 1844. He was educated at Sandhurst and held a commission in the 87th R. I. Fusiliers till 1848, when he entered the civil service. He was appointed Governor of Hongkong in 1859, in which year he was knighted. After serving his term here he held various other important Governorships and retired in 1889. In 1895 he was created a baronet. In 1895 he was reappointed Governor of the Cape and High Commissioner for South Africa, and was recently raised to the peerage, taking the title of Lord Rosmead. He was one of the most capable and distinguished Governors the Colonial Service has produced, and his record stands high in all the colonies he administered.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

The Governor's opening speech at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 25th October will have had a reassuring effect upon the community, and some curiosity may perhaps be entertained now as to why the recent scare about a prospective increase of taxation should ever have been raised. The finances of the colony appear to be in a perfectly sound condition and as trade is fairly brisk and likely to continue so no anxiety need be felt for the immediate future. His Excellency was able to make the satisfactory announcement that the charge for light dues has been reduced from 2½ cents to 1 cent a ton, and the Government is to be congratulated on having acted fairly in this matter, though strong pressure had to be exerted to induce to do it so. The lesson will no doubt be duly remembered, and if at any future time the shipping community or any other interest should suggest the imposition of temporary taxation to provide the cost of some much needed public improvement care will be taken to have the exact understanding, whatever it may be, explicitly embodied in the legislation giving effect to it, so that the temporary charge for a specific purpose may not be treated, as the Gap Rock light dues were, as a permanent addition to the general revenue of the colony. The expediency of this course was suggested in this column at the time the Gap Rock light dues were imposed, and experience has proved the soundness of the suggestion. It was in this column also that the suggestion that the time for the remission of the dues had arrived was first advanced, when the matter had apparently been lost sight of by those more immediately interested, and we may be excused if we draw some personal satisfaction from the result of the discussion thus initiated.

The budget has been balanced by prospective increases of revenue, not by the curtailment of expenditure on public works. The opium monopoly has been let at a largely increased rental, a satisfactory feature, though from many points of view it would be more satisfactory if the Government could see its way to the abolition of the farming system and the collection of the revenue from opium by some less objectionable means. An increase in the amount derived from assessed taxes is anticipated, owing to the increased value of property and the extension of building. The Government intends, too, to adopt what His Excellency terms a "bold policy" in regard to the supply of subsidiary coins, by which we presume he means that the supply is to be kept up to a point sufficient to meet the demand, a policy which the public has long desired to see adopted. His Excellency says the Government is much indebted to the Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for his assistance and advice in connection with this subject, and if that means that Mr. JACKSON has induced the Government to throw over the timorous policy of the past the public will unite with the Government in expressing thanks to that gentleman. Another source from which a substantial revenue is anticipated is land sales, and we think there can be little doubt that the anticipations on that head will be more than realised.

His Excellency gives a very favourable review of the commercial progress of the colony during the last five years, but there is one point in his remarks that calls for some elucidation. We are told that the value of the transit trade has increased

by 28,933,788 Haikwan taels, or nearly £5,000,000 sterling. We are unable to verify these figures from the Chinese Customs returns, which represent the increase in the tael value of Hongkong's trade with China at a higher figure than that stated, but unfortunately if the amounts for the respective years be turned into sterling a small decrease instead of £5,000,000 increase is shown. On this point it would seem that His Excellency has fallen into an inaccuracy.

His Excellency refers with justifiable satisfaction to the development of local industries, which it must be recorded to his credit he has always done his best to foster. He mentions the establishment of two large kerosine oil depôts, feather-dressing and match factories, soap, coal briquette, and rattan works, the extensions of the docks, the large sugar refineries, and the rope and cement works as standing monuments of that development, whilst the spirit of local enterprise is again evident in the recent formation of a public company for the establishment of cotton mills in the colony. If His Excellency had chosen to assume the rôle of a prophet he might with some justification have drawn a glowing picture of the future, for there appears good reason to believe that the industrial development of the colony is about to proceed at a more rapid rate than it has done hitherto.

His Excellency's address bears a valedictory character with it, as this is the last occasion on which he will have to present the estimates to the Legislative Council, but as he is not, we understand, likely to leave the colony until March or April, it still lacks five or six months to the time when it will be necessary to finally say good bye, and in the meanwhile we have no doubt the cordial feeling that exists between Sir WILLIAM and the community will be further cemented. We have not always been able to endorse his policy, but he is a gentleman who commands personal respect and regard even from those who may differ from him politically. His policy bears many points of similarity to that of the late Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY, but it has been pursued by very different methods.

CHINA AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

In an article upon our suggestion that Hongkong should adopt the gold standard the *Japan Mail* admits that it is "very improbable that any community of merchants should be able to work successfully with a silver currency if the demonetisation of the white metal by so many nations is to remain permanent." Our contemporary goes on, however, to question the probability of permanence. England, says the writer, is the chief if not the sole obstacle to an international agreement for the rehabilitation of silver. "Now if England had to consider her interests as the world's creditor only, she would assuredly hold firmly to her gold conservatism. But she has to consider something else. She has to consider the interests of a section of her subjects numbering no less than 300 millions. What is to be done about India?" The correct answer to that question is supplied by the *Times*, which, according to Reuter's telegram, says that the only chance of securing a stable rate of exchange between England and India is to establish a common standard, which, under the circumstances, can only be the gold sovereign. This establishment of a common standard throughout the empire, and practically

throughout the world, will go a long way to compensate for the disadvantages attendant upon the abandonment of silver as effective money. Whatever may be said of the policy of closing the Indian mints it is impossible now to retrace the step then taken. As an Indian contemporary points out, it was one thing to keep the Indian mints open when they were open; it is a very different thing to incur the inevitable dislocation of business that would result from re-opening them at this stage. To the proposals of the WOLCOTT Commission India has turned a deaf ear.

Nor is the *Japan Mail* correct in saying that England is the only obstacle to the rehabilitation of silver. If the proposals of the WOLCOTT Commission had been tentatively accepted by England it is more than doubtful whether the policy they embodied would have been ultimately accepted even by the United States and France, the promoters of the movement. The United States Government would not venture to abandon the single gold standard without a mandate from the country, and in an election fought on that issue the chances would be in favour of the success of the gold party, as at the last election. As to France, the *Journal des Débats* says that the adoption of free coinage would be enough to secure the admission into a lunatic asylum of the person who proposed it or the Government that passed it. No other ratio than 15½ to 1 would suit France, owing to the large stock of silver held by her and valued at that figure. But to re-open the mint to silver at that ratio would mean that France would have to absorb the whole silver money of the world, and, as a contemporary suggests, so cautious a people as the peasantry and small bourgeoisie who control the elections in France would never support a Government which entered upon so wildly speculative a policy as would be involved in sinking the gold reserve in buying depreciated silver in unlimited quantity above its market value. The WOLCOTT Commission has proved a failure; it may be looked upon as the last flicker of bimetallism.

China and Mexico are now the only important countries remaining that depend upon the silver standard, and in China silver is not the real standard, that position being held rather by copper cash. Her foreign trade, however, is in reality conducted on a gold basis, the rate of exchange being taken account of in every transaction for the sale or purchase of goods between Chinese and foreigners at the treaty ports and in Hongkong. It is only the Chinese Government that cannot take account of exchange, and it has to collect its duties in depreciated silver. But China has contracted large gold obligations and is trying to contract more, and if silver continues to decline the strain on her finances must soon reach breaking point. And that there will be a further decline there can be little doubt. The rate of exchange is at present sustained by a temporary scarcity of money in the Far East, caused by the withdrawal of the Japanese yen and other fortuitous circumstances, but the influences now operative will not last many months, and then silver will resume its movement on the downward grade. One of the reasons of Japan's adopting a gold standard was that she desired free access to the money markets of the West. The same reason ought to operate, and more strongly, with China, for if she does not take steps to regulate her currency she will soon find rocks ahead.

With regard to the question of exchange

as affecting private individuals we may mention a circumstance that occurred some years ago. The present writer was discussing the exchange question with an old China hand who was reputed to have accumulated a comfortable competency. The old hand said he had just sent all his money home at 2s. 6d., and that he had been advised to do so by his brother, a banker in Edinburgh, who told him that it was no use waiting until the rate went to 2s. The writer, being at that time still a believer in the future of silver, scoffed at such an idea. The old hand did not live to follow his money home, but, like so many old hands, went to Happy Valley instead. The result showed, however, that the policy on which he acted with regard to his remittance was a correct one. It would probably be equally correct for any one similarly circumstanced at the present time to remit at 1s. 11d. instead of waiting for the rate to go to 1s. 6d.

CHINA AND HER LEADERS.

As was recently remarked in this column, it is much to be regretted that China has not, among her officials, a single man of commanding influence and intellectual force who is able or cares to administer the government honestly. Li HUNG-CHANG, the best known and undoubtedly the most central figure in Chinese politics, is put out of court on account of the corruptness of his administration and his comparative lack of influence at Peking. The fact that the work of providing for the defence of the Empire had for about a quarter of a century been practically intrusted to him, together with well nigh unlimited power and abundant funds, with the result shown during the war with Japan, would have been sufficient in any other country to have secured his permanent disgrace. In China the failure of the costly but ineffective army and navy he had built up simply discredited him in the capital. His knowledge and experience of foreign affairs were too invaluable to admit of his being banished in disgrace. He was wanted in order to repair, by diplomacy, a part of the ruin he had created by greed and misgovernment. But though Li has not been exactly dismissed from office, he is now regarded with suspicion and dislike. His influence is no longer paramount in the Grand Council. Nor is it, on the whole, to be regretted that a man who has had such large possibilities in his grasp should be relegated to a secondary position. His attitude towards foreigners, moreover, was always inimical, and, had he dared, would have been pronouncedly hostile. He was not animated with any fervent love of country in his actions, which were influenced almost solely by love of gain. He succeeded in amassing a colossal fortune, and according to all accounts he still holds on to this supreme consolation in his age. The possession of countless acres in Anhwei, his native province, is no doubt balm to his soul, no matter how he may be wounded by the indifference of the Tsung-li Yamen and the frowns of the EMPEROR.

His ancient rival CHANG CHIH-TUNG is still in the plenitude of his power at Wu-chang. His reputation was not tarnished during the recent war; his patriotism has never been suspected, and no rude hands can tear away the curtain that hides the true official and reveal the corrupt and self-seeking mandarin. But though CHANG's political influence has undergone no sensible diminution, his administrative sagacity has sustained a shock. He has

demonstrated to the Central Government that, while he has courage and enterprise to start new and important undertakings, he has never had the perseverance and administrative energy to see them carried out efficiently. Thus he is perpetually instituting some new innovation, although those already commenced are seldom allowed to arrive at fruition. For instance, he has just imported from the United States a Mr. G. D. BRILL, who is engaged to start a Model Farm and a Museum to exhibit the different agricultural implements in use in Europe and America. The idea is a good one, but the chances are that, like most of His Excellency's projects, it will never get beyond the experimental stage. Some years ago CHANG founded a School of Chemistry at Wuchang, but it now consists, we are told, of the Professor, two students, and one other, who by his ignorance of English and Mandarin is disqualified from acquiring any knowledge of this science. Then again, the spinning mill erected at great cost and containing valuable plant, is a failure owing to his objection to employ foreigners to superintend the operations. The Wuchang correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary says that among other peculiarities this mill contains are "a number of excellent English jennys" which have never been unpacked, but "their place is to be supplied by inferior machinery from Japan which requires new buildings and another set of engines." Obviously this is a job on the part of the official underlings. CHANG himself is superior to the avarice which has wrecked Li HUNG-CHANG's reputation, but he is strongly prejudiced against foreigners and puts confidence in his officials, which is grossly abused. All his numerous schemes for the development of Chinese resources are therefore doomed to failure, and he becomes discredited thereby.

Taotai SHENG and Governor Hu, who was recently appointed Director-General of Railways North of the Yellow River remain for consideration. SHENG is an apt pupil of the mis-called "BISMARCK of China," and has improved upon his preceptor both in daring and originality. Whether he will ever win the trust of the EMPEROR is another matter. We should hardly think that this was possible. He is too notorious. At the same time he may prove clever enough to restrain his squeezing proclivities within bounds until he has achieved some successes and made himself indispensable. His peculations might then, like those of some of his predecessors, be overlooked. Hu is a man of a better stamp, but he will have to fight against the un-patriotic mandarins who regard office as a mere step towards fortune. The honest official in China is a *rara avis*, and he is not long before he finds that there is no room for him in the official ranks. For these reasons we are not inclined to take a very sanguine view of the success of schemes for the material progress of the Empire. The trail of the serpent is over them all.

While the servants were busy at work at the Astor House, Shanghai, the other day, about 11 o'clock, a native quietly entered the Astor Hall and commenced removing the electric light globes, and after taking eight from their position marched out with them, as bold as brass. The servants thought he was a workman so, of course, did not interfere, but after he had been gone some time it was discovered that he belonged to the light-fingered fraternity. He did not return for the remainder, but it is hoped that the police will soon be on his track. The ways of the heathen Chinese are peculiar!—*Mercury*.

CHINESE DUAL ADMINISTRATION.

The problem of a dual administration has had a long trial in China, and it is curious to see how it works out. In former days, before the necessities of the Imperial Government had been largely increased by the legacy of debt left by the Chino-Japanese War, matters accommodated themselves in a certain degree and the rapacity of the mandarins was held somewhat in check by fear of popular demonstrations and of exposure by the Censors. But now that the Customs revenue is fully eaten up by interest on the loans effected, and other sources of Imperial revenue, such as the Post Office and Telegraphs, have to be developed before they yield a very large sum, the impropriety of having competing Customs and Lekin Offices established in the interior is plainly evident. Nothing could, for instance, be more illogical and foolish than to maintain dual Customs services in the Two Kwang. Yet this is done in order to create a monopoly which is farmed out to a Manchu official, who is expected to make his "pile" in five years. He is also regarded as a milch cow to be bled by the Imperial Court, who requisition from him annual supplies of silks, embroideries, and other luxuries produced in the southern provinces, and for which no payment is either asked or offered. When the Haikwan returns to Peking with the wealth he has amassed from his monopoly he is compelled to disgorge a portion of it, amounting to some tens of thousands of taels, before he is suffered to pass through the Anting gate and proceed to audience with His Majesty the EMPEROR. All this is matter of notoriety, and it is probably because the luxuries sent from Canton are particularly acceptable to the ladies of the Harem, and the cost of them, if purchased, would be considerable, that the Central Government are content to put up with a serious loss from the receipts of the Imperial Maritime Customs caused by the competition of the Haikwan's tariff. Owing to the concession of preferential or lower duties charged by the Haikwan on cargo borne in native bottoms the steamers trading on the Canton River have for many years been deprived of the carriage of various articles of produce. There was a time—long years ago, we fear—when the steamboats carried cotton, cassia, rattan, and other products. They have ceased, however, not only to carry these products, but they have now, through the same cause, been deprived of the carriage of tea and waste-silk. Energetic remonstrances have been addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to Peking, and once, for a brief spell, the trade was allowed to return, but not for long. Latterly the myrmidons of the Haikwan have been widening the field of their operations, and the river steamers are now threatened with the loss of the carriage of all principal articles of up-country produce. No doubt further representations have been or will be made to the Tsung-li Yamen, but it is to be feared that whatever pledges may be given, the lost traffic will not be permanently regained, as the temptation to divert it is great and the risk of detection small. The great and only effective cure for this evil is the abolition of the Haikwan. He is absolutely unnecessary. The duties he collects could be more economically collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs, and they would be saved loss of revenue by the cessation of this concession of preferential duties through the native establishment. It would be argued, perhaps, that the local revenues would suffer, but this, if true, could

easily be met by a contribution being granted from the Imperial Customs towards certain provincial expenses. The great difficulty lies in Chinese conservatism and the indisposition of the Government to abolish an institution in which the Court have so close and personal an interest.

Nor is the dual Customs system the only evil arising from the practice of the Imperial and provincial Governments seeking *pari passu* to draw a revenue from the people. The Imperial Government takes toll from them first, and contributes nothing to their support. The provincial administration then has to secure a maintenance, and unfortunately its wants are many and it is not easily satisfied. Even for purposes of coast defence the provincial Government has to raise funds, and many are the shifts and expedients to which it is often driven to replenish the exchequer. Owing to the expenses entailed by the late war the Canton Government are now creating much dissatisfaction by increasing the taxation, more especially on the necessities of life. Fuel of all kinds is heavily taxed, and most articles of consumption have gone up in price owing to the taxes levied upon them when in transit. The Chinese of this colony are much exercised by the advance in prices all round, which they ascribe mainly to the augmentation of the lekin charges. The system of taxation is, of course, essentially rotten, and cannot readily be revised, but the most glaring anomaly, the existence of two separate Customs services, could undoubtedly be eliminated if the Imperial Government had any earnest wish for reform. It is to be feared, however, that there is no genuine desire on the part of any of the Chinese officials to inaugurate any changes which would have for their result the reduction of squeezes. Now and again, it suits one of the Censors to denounce some special form of corruption more glaring than usual, but nothing is done to remove it, and the conscience of the Censor is then relieved. He has performed the work he was appointed to execute, and he rests satisfied with having directed the Imperial attention to the evil. The document is then carefully filed and consigned to the archives until some other eager aspirant for fame re-discovers the abuse.

SANITARY REFORM IN BOMBAY AND HONGKONG.

The Governor in his recent speech in the Legislative Council referred to the sanitary progress made in the colony during the period of his administration. The main drainage has been practically remodelled, thirty-six miles of sewers have been laid, not including the drains constructed in connection with the redrainage of houses, and His Excellency is informed that Victoria may now be regarded as one of the best drained cities east of Suez and that its domestic sanitation will compare favourably with that of any of the large cities in England. By-laws have also been made for the compulsory concreting of ground floors in dwellings, for the prevention of overcrowding, for the regulation of bakehouses, laundries, opium-smoking divans, offensive trades, and animal depots, for the regular periodical cleansing of tenement dwellings, and for the notification of communicable diseases, and these are being quietly and steadily enforced. All this is very satisfactory on the surface, but the colony is still waiting for the report of the Insanitary Properties Commission, which, if rumour speaks truly, will show that the sanitary condition of the colony is far from perfect and that much still remains to be done.

At Bombay, as at Hongkong, the occurrence of the plague has led to a movement for sanitary reform and a scheme has been put forward there which contemplates the calling into existence of a new and more healthy city. The execution of this scheme, it is estimated, will entail an expenditure of no less than fifty million rupees, and it is to be carried out by a Trust, on which the Corporation will be strongly represented. In this body will be vested the control of all vacant lands belonging to the Government and the Municipality within Municipal limits. On these lands buildings at low rents will be erected for the accommodation of the poor who are now crowded in insanitary dwellings. The laying out of new streets in the densely-populated part of the native town is an important part of the scheme. Careful surveys for this purpose have been in progress for some months past, and as more than two and a half crores are allotted to this part of the enterprise, it will be carried out upon a scale of great magnitude. A crore and a quarter is proposed to be allotted for reclamations at Colaba and Walkeshwar, the Trust enjoying the rents of these reclamations free for the first twenty years. It is calculated that the scheme will involve an addition to the Municipal rates of two per cent. on the assessable value of the property. The Government of India, after a careful consideration, have expressed their favourable opinion of it, and preparations for giving it legislative shape are in active progress. Bombay is, the *Times of India* says, one of the lightest taxed cities in the world and can well afford to meet the addition to its local taxation.

When the plague broke out in Hongkong and the lamentable sanitary condition of the colony was brought so forcibly to light the Government tried to throw the responsibility for the existence of such a state of affairs on to the Sanitary Board, a body that had next to no executive power and no funds at its disposal, but which had been doing its best with its limited powers to effect improvements. The Bombay Government, if it had wished to make a scapegoat, might in the same way have turned on the Municipality, and perhaps with more reason, for it seems to be generally admitted that there have been shortcomings on the part of the Corporation. This, however, is not the course adopted. The Government recognises the good work done by the Corporation and, instead of trying to find an excuse for kicking it out of existence, desires its co-operation in carrying out the great scheme now advanced. The reasons why the scheme is not entrusted entirely to the Corporation are courteously set out in the Government's letter to that body. The scheme, it is stated, is as entirely beyond the financial means of the Corporation as it is outside the range of duties for the discharge of which the provisions of the Bombay Municipal Act have been specifically designed and adapted. The Municipal Executive admittedly have a sufficiently burdensome task in administering the general affairs of the city, and it is felt, the letter goes on to say, that for the measures now in contemplation it is imperative, both for general management and prompt executive action, there should be a special agency with a separate staff at liberty to devote their entire energies to the particular task before them. The Governor in Council fully recognizes the success of municipal administration in Bombay as exemplified, for instance, by the magnificent water-supply works, which constitute an achievement of which any city might be proud, but he is of

opinion that a scheme of the character now in contemplation, requiring persistent and long-sustained effort on systematic lines, involving so many varied purposes with the prospect of an almost infinite number of questions of detail both in management and execution, and in which, moreover, large proprietary interests of Government will be involved, is essentially one that should be entrusted to a small administrative body, with special powers to raise funds, acquire property, and execute the necessary works. It is proposed, therefore, to constitute a Trust consisting of twelve members, six of whom will be nominated by the Government, while four others will represent the Corporation, and the remaining two the Chamber of Commerce and the Port Trust respectively. Here is a hint which might be adopted with advantage in Hongkong should any operation similar to the Taipingshan resumption ever again have to be carried out. Had the administration of the condemned area in Taipingshan been entrusted to such a body as the Bombay Trust the work of reconstruction would, we venture to say, have been carried out more economically and with less delay and fewer mistakes than has actually been the case. The work, it must be admitted, has in the ultimate result been well done, but it has been very costly and has occupied an unconscionable time.

THE POLICE AND THE BRIBERY SCANDAL.

A serious allegation regarding the administration of the police is made in Friday's issue of the *China Mail*, namely, that the Captain Superintendent having in his possession conclusive evidence of the guilt of two sergeant interpreters in the matter of receiving bribes, the men were made aware of that fact, and it is stated that they wisely entered their resignations. It would appear from the paragraph that the resignations were accepted, and that the matter is at an end so far as those particular men are concerned. But if, as alleged, the Captain Superintendent had in his possession conclusive evidence that they were guilty of a criminal offence it was clearly his duty to prosecute them, and some explanation of why that course was not adopted seems called for. The men, it would appear, have not even been dismissed, but have been allowed to resign. If this is so the inequality of justice with which the members of the Force alleged to be implicated in the gambling scandal have been treated becomes still more glaring. In the first place Inspector WITCHELL was prosecuted criminally and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment. It was expected that the other men would have a similar fair and open trial, and, if found guilty, be punished in the same degree, or, if found not guilty, be acquitted. Instead of that they were dealt with departmentally and several of them against whom no charge of bribery could be proved were dismissed with disgrace and loss of pension for what was termed neglect of duty in not reporting gambling houses of the existence of which they were, so far as appears to the contrary, unaware. And now we are told that two men against whom clear evidence of guilt exists have been allowed to resign. The statement appears in a paper which may as a rule be regarded as the mouthpiece of Mr. MAY, but it is scarcely credible that this particular statement can have been made on that gentleman's authority. The important point, however, is to know whether the statement is true. If so a grave a miscarriage of jus-

tice has been perpetrated. If it be clearly proved that any officer of the Police Force has received bribes he ought to receive punishment adequate to his offence instead of being allowed to escape by entering his resignation.

MR. WHITEHEAD AND THE HANSARD REPORTS.

(27th October.)

In reference to the question of which the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice at the last meeting of the Legislative Council, relating to the omission of a portion of the discussion at the previous meeting from the report that appeared in our columns and from the Hansard report, it may be well that we should at once explain the circumstances. It may be premised that the object, either of a newspaper report or of the Hansard report of legislative proceedings, is to give an intelligent account of what transpires, rather than an absolutely literal report, a reproduction of every *lapsus linguae* or obviously unintentional misstatement of facts being calculated to obscure the sense and confuse the reader. The discussion referred to in Mr. WHITEHEAD'S question related to the military contribution, and the Colonial Secretary let fall the remark, "Then the question of exchange comes in." Mr. LOCKHART had apparently forgotten for the moment that the contribution being now a fixed proportion of the colony's revenue is unaffected by the rate of exchange. His error was corrected at the time, and as there was no question either of fact or principle involved, but simply an accidental slip, there seemed to be no object in placing on record so much of the discussion as turned on those words. Mr. LOCKHART mentioned to the reporter that he had made a mistake, but that was sufficiently self-evident and it is to be presumed the reporters' own intelligence would have led him to omit it from the report without any suggestion to that effect. We fail to see the object of Mr. WHITEHEAD'S question. It is said that all is fair in love and war, and if the hon. gentleman considers himself at war with the officials he may think it fair to jeer at the Colonial Secretary on account of an accidental verbal slip, but we should have thought a man imbued with sporting instincts, like the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce, would have preferred to win on his own merits, rather than by the accidents of his opponents.

FRANCE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS IN SOUTH CHINA.

Our neighbours in Tonkin are at present much exercised concerning the proposed railway to be constructed by the Compagnie de Fives-Lille, under agreement with the Chinese Government, in Kwangsi, in connection with the Tonkin railway. This line, leaving Nacham, on the Tonkin frontier, runs to Lungchow, thence to Nanning, on the West River, and, crossing the river, runs up the left bank to Pose. It is contended that this line, instead of furthering the interests of the Tonkin route, would result in attracting the Yunnan trade to Nanning and so join it with the West River route to Wuchow, Canton, and Hongkong. The Hanoi Chamber of Commerce has therefore recommended the abandonment of this line in favour another further west which would not join the West River. The question came before the Haiphong Chamber the other day, but that body is not in agreement with the Hanoi Chamber, holding that the route already selected would be favourable to

Tonkin provided the Tonkin and Chinese lines were on the same gauge, which, according to present arrangements, will not be the case. The gauge selected for the Chinese line is 1.47 metre, whereas the gauge to which the present toy line from Phulangthuong to Langson is to be reconstructed and extended to Hanoi at one end and Nacham at the other is only 1 metre. The Haiphong Chamber has therefore unanimously resolved to recommend the adoption of the gauge of 1.47 metre for the Tonkin lines. This is a sensible suggestion, which the French Government would be well advised to adopt. It is not to be supposed, however, that through railway communication from Kwangsi or Yunnan to Haiphong would divert much if any of the existing trade from the West River route; rather would it create new trade and to some extent act as a feeder to the West River route. Railways in England have not destroyed the coasting and canal trades, and it is certain that a fine stream like the West River will always command a large volume of trade, more especially when steamers are allowed to ply on the upper reaches of the river. The latest report concerning the proposed railway to Nanning and Pose, however, is that, contrary to what has generally been supposed, no definite agreement has been entered into between the Chinese Government and the Compagnie de Fives-Lille, so that the whole matter is still open.

Another interesting report we find in our Tonkin contemporaries is to the effect that a party of Government engineers are expected to arrive from France next month to study the construction of a vast network of railways in Indo-China. The trunk line, according to the *Courrier d'Haiphong*, should be from Saigon, following the sinuosities of the coast, touching at Tourane or Hué and the other coast towns, and so on to Hanoi, where it would join the line to the Chinese frontier. But our contemporary would have connection established also with Hatien and Rach-Gia, ports on the west coast much frequented by native craft and which might be used by steamers trading with Bangkok, and perhaps even by those from India and Europe. The writer then proceeds to draw a fanciful picture of passengers from Europe leaving the steamer at one of these ports, transferring to a comfortable sleeping car, and being transported by train to their destinations in China or even Hongkong.

The English, he says, are practical people, to whom time is money, and they would not hesitate to adopt the suggested route both for themselves and their merchandise, which would be "a serious blow for the English colony, . . . The importance of Hongkong will diminish as that of Haiphong becomes greater." If the proposed route offered any advantages in time or cost of transport it would no doubt be readily availed of by the merchants of Hongkong, and offering such advantages we fail to see how it could be considered detrimental to our interests. But we do not quite follow our contemporary's arguments. We are told that if the trains travelled only at the moderate speed of 40 kilomètres an hour the journey would be effected in less than three days, but to what point the journey would be effected in that time is not stated. Seeing, however, that the French mail steamers make the voyage from Saigon to Hongkong in less than three days we fail to see where the alleged advantage of travelling by train would come in, as there would be no saving of time, and the cost would necessarily be very much greater.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH MANEUVRING IN CHINA.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong*, writing on "English Manoeuvring in China," advances rather a large and altogether unfounded claim in regard to French rights in Southern China. It says that, profiting by the preponderance in the Far East secured for France by Admiral Huwann's boldness at Bangkok, M. GERARD signed a convention with China which commercially opened to France Yunnan, Szechuen, and the rich country of the "Four Valleys," entrusted to French agents the post and telegraph service of Southern Yunnan, particularly at Szemao and authorised the establishment of a French consular administration in the towns of the Chinese provinces in question. "This treaty," says our contemporary, "bound China not to allow any other nation to profit by the favours accorded to us." Needless to say, no such clause appears in the convention. It would be in direct conflict with the most favoured nation clause of the other treaties and would be altogether inadmissible. The nearest approach to such a provision as that described is contained in the clause providing that for the opening of Chinese mines French skilled assistance may be applied for, but that is merely permissive and does not bind China, any more than a similar clause relating to the construction of railways in a previous treaty. The Tonkin paper, however, arguing from the false premiss that all other nations but the French were to be rigorously excluded, maintains that the recent English agreement referring to the Burmah frontier, etc., constitutes a grave wrong done to France. It is much to be regretted that French journalists should so assiduously misrepresent matters and invent excuses for stirring up bad blood when no real reason for animosity exists.

THE REBELLION IN MANCHURIA.

The rebellion in Manchuria, concerning which very little authentic intelligence has been received hitherto, seems likely to cause the Peking Government a good deal of anxiety and trouble. The number of the insurgents who have taken the field is estimated at over 8,000 men, and they are now collected at a place called Pingchuan, in the Jeho district outside the Great Wall. They have succeeded in capturing Pingchuan and there they have arrested the progress of the Imperialist Commander, General NIEH, who has had to form an entrenched camp some sixteen miles from the town and there await reinforcements. These are being sent in sufficient numbers to bring up his force to 8,000 infantry besides three batteries of artillery. The rebels are naturally much inferior in arms, and reputed to be also inferior in discipline (the discipline of Chinese regulars is, however, nothing to boast of); but these circumstances may be balanced by the fact that they are said to have a body of 40,000 members from which to draw reinforcements. They are also not badly provided with arms and ammunition, as they have purchased or picked up more than seven-tenths of those abandoned by the rabble rout who were sent to fight the Japanese when the latter advanced into the country. At Tientsin some apprehension is said to exist that, if General NIEH be defeated—a not improbable contingency—the rebels will attempt to capture the railway and advance on Tientsin. The Viceroy WANG has given orders for the disciplined force under YUAN SHI-KI, now stationed

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at Hsiaochan, fifteen miles west of Tientsin, to be ready to start for that city at a moment's notice—a proof that absolute reliance is not placed on General NIEH. It would appear that this insurrection is more formidable than most of the little local rebellions continually occurring in China, on account of the hardier character of the population and the possession by them of a comparatively large supply of arms. The superiority of the Imperialists has heretofore been mainly in arms and discipline, but if the former proves an illusory advantage the latter rarely counts for much. Quite apart from the desirability on grounds of good government and the safety of Tientsin, there is another reason why the Peking Government should do their best to promptly quell this outbreak so near to the metropolitan province. The Trans-Siberian Railway is to be extended through Manchuria, and Russia will naturally feel reluctant to have this most important highway left to the mercy of a horde of rebels. The Russian Government may therefore, in the event of any serious Imperialist reverses, insist on occupying Manchuria with Russian troops to ensure its pacification. It is needless to point out that such an occupation would be indefinitely prolonged and might eventuate in a new and most advantageous (to Russia) rectification of the Siberian frontier.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on 1st Nov. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B. (Officer Commanding the Forces).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General). Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. T. SEECOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. OREMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WEI A. YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

GOVERNMENT BALANCES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—With reference to the question of the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce, asked at the last meeting of the Council, I have the honour to lay on the table the general instructions regarding Government balances.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the adoption of the report of the Finance Committee, No. 8.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move that this Council approve of a sanitary by-law for the licensing and regulation of common lodging houses, made under sub-section 12 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 and sub-section d of section 1 of Ordinance No. 26 of 1890.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded.

Carried.

THE DEFINITION OF A STREET.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—with regard to the other sanitary by-law which I had intended to move that the Council approve today, I am not able to bring it for-

ward, but I trust at the next meeting I shall be in a position to do so. The by-law has been sent back to the Sanitary Board with a view to its defining the word "street" more clearly. The suggested alteration is as follows:—"For the purposes of this by-law the word 'street' shall mean and include the following: street, road, lane, alley or passage, whether thoroughfare or not." If, as is hoped, the Sanitary Board will see its way to adopting the suggestion the by-law will be submitted at the next meeting of Council.

HANSARD REPORT.

In pursuance of notice Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—If the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, after last meeting of the Finance Committee of this Council held on 13th ulto, requested or directed the reporter of the *Daily Press* and for the official Hansard report of the proceedings of this Council, to suppress any portion of the discussion on the subject of the Military Contribution, which took place at said meeting, and if it was at his suggestion that a question put by me at that meeting with reference to the Military Contribution, the Honourable Member's reply thereto, and the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer's correction of an error into which the Honourable the Colonial Secretary had fallen in his reply, did not appear in the report of the meeting of the Finance Committee in any one of the three local newspapers and is not contained in the official Hansard report as sent round by the *Daily Press* to Honourable Members for revision.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In Finance Committee, the Colonial Secretary, with reference to the Military Contribution, used the words:—"The question of exchange comes in." Therefore the Treasurer reminded the Committee that as the contribution was a fixed percentage of revenue, the exchange question did not arise, and thus the self-evident slip of the Colonial Secretary was immediately corrected. At the close of the meeting, the Colonial Secretary mentioned the mistake to the reporter for Hansard and said, jokingly, he trusted it would not be handed down to posterity. Subject to this explanation the answer to the question of the Honourable Member is in the negative. It may be well to add that while Hansard is intended to give an accurate and impartial record of what occurs in Council it is not usual to record every unintentional slip or *lapsus lingua* which is corrected at the time.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum of not exceeding two millions three hundred and forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars to the Public Service of the year 1898.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time and referred to the Finance Committee.

CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889. The objects and reasons of this Ordinance are so fully set forth in the memorandum which I have prepared and which has been in the hands of members that I do not feel it is necessary to make any observations on the subject. Some time ago—I think in 1889—a similar proposition to that contained in this Bill was brought forward, and it was objected to by some members of the Council because it was thought that Chinese who had been for some years in the colony might be got back into China on some pretence or other and wrongly punished. Precautions against this have been taken and if members will examine the first safeguard provided by the Ordinance they will see that depositions will be received only in certain cases. Secondly, the depositions must be taken in the presence of the British Consul or his deputy in the Consular Service, and his certificate, as mentioned in the Ordinance, must accompany them. This ought to secure their *bona fides* as well as some regard for the elementary principles of English evidence in such documents. The third safeguard is as follows:—"Depositions will not be admitted where the accused has resided more than six months in this colony."

This will ensure the due protection of Chinese residents in Hongkong, while it will facilitate the extradition of offenders who fly to this colony fresh from the commission of crimes of violence in China, and swell the ranks of our criminal classes." I have quoted very shortly from the objects and reasons, and I think it is only necessary to add that this matter has been very carefully considered. The Viceroy was desirous that changes should be made and the matter was submitted to the Government, but I could not see my way to advise the Government to adopt all the amendments which were suggested. The present amendments appear to be sound and based on a sound principle. My memorandum was, I believe, sent to the Secretary of State, who approved of the principle of this Bill. A slight alteration will have to be made in Committee owing to the Interpretation Ordinance, which we are passing to-day. That Ordinance gives the interpretation of the words "consular officer." The interpretation is precisely the same as that contained in the Imperial Interpretation Act. In Section 11 of the new Ordinance the expression "consular officer" is thus defined: "The expression consular officer shall include consul-general, consul, vice-consul, consular agent, and any person for the time being authorized to discharge the duties of consul-general, consul, or vice-consul." That will simplify the Bill and in the Committee stage I shall move that the complicated expression at present in the Bill be altered to "consular officer."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

Hon. HO KAI made some observations which could not be clearly heard.

The Bill was left in Committee.

Council resumed.

WATERWORKS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend The Waterworks Ordinance, 1890. The reason for this Bill is that the supply of water for Kowloon is limited and the demand soon overcomes the supply. The object of the Bill is to prevent the necessity of laying on water in the case of Chinese houses in Kowloon where an adequate water supply can be obtained from the public fountains.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I beg to second. I may say that a similar course was adopted in Ceylon where it was found to be very necessary.

Bill read a second time.

Bill went through all its stages and passed.

NATURALIZATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Naturalization of U Hoi Chau alias U Chiu Tsün.

Bill read a second time.

Bill went through all its stages and passed.

CLOSED HOUSES AND INSANITARY DWELLINGS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend The Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894. This Ordinance gives a more comprehensive interpretation of the words "height of any buildings," as defined in section 12 of the principal Ordinance. The definition as it originally stood has been found inapplicable in many cases, as it contained nothing to limit the height of any structure in which the main walls did not effect a junction with the eaves, and this Ordinance endeavours to meet that difficulty.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Bill went through all its stages and passed.

INTERPRETATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Construction of Ordinances, to further shorten the language used in Ordinances, and for other like purposes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time and referred to the Law Committee.

VAGRANTS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to Vagrants. The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Bill went through all its stages and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

HIS EXCELLENCY—It is advisable to get on with the estimates with despatch and I propose to adjourn the Council until this day week. The Finance Committee will meet now and discuss the Appropriation Bill.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart presided and all the members were present.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Appropriation Bill.

The CHAIRMAN intimated that the usual course would be followed of taking the various items in the Bill item by item.

PUBLIC DEBT.

On the item, "Charge on account of Public Debt, \$176,123," being read,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—In August last, Mr. Chairman, I asked for a detailed statement of the loan raised in 1887 and also of that raised in 1894. It was laid upon the Council table at a meeting of the Council held on the 23rd of that month, but after very careful examination of the papers I was unable to say that any answer was given to my question which would enable us to ascertain the cost of the loans. Could not the Finance Committee furnish us with a more complete statement?

The CHAIRMAN—I am sure that if the hon. member will let us know exactly what information he desires we shall be very glad to furnish him with it.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The detailed statement I asked for was the interest in respect of the 1894 loan. The statement supplied did not enable us to work out what interest the loans have cost us in dollars. It is an easy matter to say the interest was 3½ per cent., but it is impossible to ascertain from the statement laid on the table in August what the loans really cost.

The CHAIRMAN—if you will allow the matter to stand over we will have it gone into again if you will let us know the exact point on which you seek information, and I am sure the Treasurer will supply you with it.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Very good.

PENSIONS.

On the item, "Pensions, \$145,000."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—There is one item I should like to know something about. Sir E. L. O'Malley still draws a pension from the colony and I understand he is still in the colonial service.

The CHAIRMAN—That is so.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—And drawing a pension in addition to his income from the Government of the West Indies?

The CHAIRMAN—He is drawing his pension under instructions from the Secretary of State. Thinking that this question might be asked I got the letter from the Secretary of State, which I will read for the information of the Committee.

" Downing Street, 12th February, 1895.

" Sir,—With reference to the letter from this Department of the 12th September, I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to inform you that the salary drawn by you at the date of your retirement from the Straits Settlements service, viz., \$12,000, may be regarded as equivalent to £2,200, being converted into sterling at 3s. 8d. to the dollar, the rate of exchange at which you draw pension from the colony, and as your Hongkong and Straits Settlements pensions are each less than £200 a year there will be no necessity under the Hongkong and Straits Settlements pension rules for any abatement to be made from either pension while you are drawing salary in British Guiana only at the rate of £2,000 a year. The Crown agents have been instructed accordingly.—I am.

" R. EBDEN.

" For under Secretary of State.
" Sir E. L. O'Malley,"

Item recommended.

GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE.

On the item, "Governor and Legislature, \$42,903."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—There is an item, "Water for Government House, \$200." I notice the cost of water is mentioned in respect of two or three of the departments. To whom does the Government disburse this charge for water?

The CHAIRMAN—It is paid to the water authority and credited to the water account.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Do those entries go to swell the total amount which we pay for military contribution—the 17½ per cent?

The CHAIRMAN—The hon. member is quite aware of the terms on which we pay the 17½ per cent.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Do they represent the revenue? Are they mere book entries converted into revenue?

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly. The 17½ per cent. is levied on the revenue less land sales.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The item is taken from one account to another and goes to increase the gross revenue, whereas no money is received. It is simply a book entry and it seems to me most unreasonable to increase the revenue by means of book entries and that 17½ per cent. should be levied on it.

The CHAIRMAN—Your suggestion is that the item should be struck out?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It appears to me to be quite unreasonable.

The CHAIRMAN—I will have the point inquired into.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think it ought to be struck out. If it is found that it swells the revenue it should certainly be struck out. (Several hon. members: It does swell the revenue.)

The CHAIRMAN—If you will allow that point to remain over I will inquire into it further. Subject to that item being recommended the other items are recommended, I understand?

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

On the item, "Public Works Department, \$92,782."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—There are several increases in this Department. At all events one of the assistant engineer's salary has been increased from \$2,400 to \$3,000. Was that increase in the agreement?

The CHAIRMAN—The application for the increase was considered by His Excellency the Governor, who thought the circumstances justified him in acceding to the request.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Is he one of the officers whose application was referred to the Committee some time ago?

The CHAIRMAN—I understand he is.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Might it not be well to refer the reports of that Committee to the Finance Committee?

The CHAIRMAN—As a matter of fact His Excellency the Governor decided to make the increase as in this case an explanation was made.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I would prefer that these reports be referred to the Finance Committee without asking for them. They would help us in our deliberations on the estimates.

The CHAIRMAN—The only one that comes before us is this increase to \$3,000. Do I understand you to object?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No, but I think before the item is finally passed the Finance Committee should have an opportunity of seeing these reports.

The CHAIRMAN—I will mention your wishes to His Excellency.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

On the item, "Medical Departments, \$108,133."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In connection with this item I observe from the Colonial Surgeon's report for this year that a first class patient in the hospital obtains accommodation, medical attendance, board, including wine, for \$5 per day, while in the first class hotels the accommodation alone is \$10 a day. It seems to me that the increase in the colony is making greater demands upon the hospital than it did formerly, and I do not quite see why the hospital should be a charitable institution.

The CHAIRMAN—I may inform the hon. member that the Government has considered the question of raising the fees and it has been decided to raise them in view of the fact that the present rate is too low.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In the same report the Colonial Surgeon refers to the ordinary seaman, who receives medical attendance and accommodation at the hospital for \$1 a day, which is cheaper than he could procure accommodation alone at a low class hotel. Do the Board of Trade seamen pay the same rate?

The CHAIRMAN—The Harbour Master will answer that question.

The HARBOUR MASTER—There are a certain number of seamen who form Board of Trade subjects and they pay exactly the same rate.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I presume that when this scale of charges was fixed the exchange was 3s. 6d. or 4s.

The CHAIRMAN—The charge was raised about eighteen months ago.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The charge was raised from 75 cents to \$1.

The CHAIRMAN—And it is the intention of the Government to raise the fees generally again. When it has been absolutely decided what the increase will be I will let you know.

Item recommended.

MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD was about to ask a question on the Military Contribution when the CHAIRMAN reminded him that the item was omitted from the Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Military Contribution Bill was passed for the express purpose of omitting the item from the Appropriation Bill. It was irregular to put the item in the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN—It is not before the Committee.

DEFENCE WORKS.

On the item, "Contribution towards Defence Works, \$30,000."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Cannot we get some information with regard to the defence works?

The CHAIRMAN—The correspondence was printed and laid on the Council table. Full information was contained in that correspondence.

A copy of the correspondence was handed to the hon. member.

Item recommended.

ADJOURNMENT.

All the items having been considered the Committee adjourned.

THE CUSTODY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

In answer to a question by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead the following general instructions regarding Government balances were laid on the table of the Legislative Council on Monday:

EXTRACTS FROM COLONIAL OFFICE DESPATCH NO. 222 OF 10TH OCTOBER, 1890.

" I will now give you definite instructions as to the limit to be placed upon Government balances in the Banks, which in the last paragraph of my despatch No. 69 of 18th April last, I proposed to give as soon as I received further information as to the possibility of reducing the balance of ordinary current accounts.

" In view of the fact that the revenue of Hongkong is larger than when the limit of \$200,000 was fixed as the maximum of Government balances including current account and deposits at interest and on the clear understanding that the total amount is not placed in one Bank, I am prepared to sanction the increase of the limit of such balances to \$350,000 including the Praya Fund as well as ordinary balances and deposits. Out of this amount the current account at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for ordinary expenditure must never exceed \$125,000 but should, as a rule, not exceed \$100,000; and the amounts in each of the other Banks should not exceed \$75,000.

" I am not prepared to sanction any excess upon the above limits so long as the balances or deposits in the Banks are unsecured, but if any of the Banks are willing to give security for sums in excess of such limits, I should not object to larger amounts being entrusted to them.

" In order to prevent the necessity in future of the current account at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank being raised to an excessive

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amount for the purpose of meeting large drafts by the Crown Agents for expenditure on behalf of the colony in this country, I have caused them to be directed, pending further instructions, to draw \$50,000 every fortnight, beginning about the middle of this month, so that they will have money in hand in advance of their requirements, and not have to make very large drafts at any time. If, however, a further sum is still occasionally required by them they will telegraph to you, stating that they propose to draw such larger amount.

EXTRACTS FROM COLONIAL OFFICE DESPATCH NO. 57 OF 30TH MARCH, 1893.

"I have the honour to inform you that as only two Banks in the colony are employed for the custody of Government funds, I am willing that the instructions given in my predecessor's despatch No. 222 of 10th October, 1890, should be modified to the following extent. The maximum balances, \$350,000, may be divided between the two Banks, provided that not more than \$200,000 remains in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and not more than \$150,000 in Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. It will therefore be necessary for you to further reduce the balances in the former Bank."

"As regards your remark that it is necessary to have large balances in order to meet occasional large drafts by the Crown Agents, I have to refer you to the fifth paragraph of Lord Knutsford's despatch No. 222 of 10th October, 1890, which shows that there is no need to accumulate excessive balances for this purpose, if only arrangements are made with the Crown Agents to make small drafts periodically so that they may have money in hand in advance for all their requirements."

EXTRACTS FROM COLONIAL OFFICE DESPATCH NO. 169 OF 20TH OCTOBER, 1893.

"I have the honour to inform you that I see no reason for modifying the instructions relative to the Government balances in the local Banks, laid down in my despatch No. 57 of the 30th of March last and in my predecessor's despatch No. 222 of 10th October, 1890.

"I have also received your despatch No. 178 of the 5th ultimo, from which it appears that the total balances had by the end of August increased to nearly \$670,000 or more than \$100,000 beyond the amount specified in your despatch of the 28th of August, and over \$300,000 in excess of the authorized limit. I have accordingly authorized the Crown Agents to draw upon the Hongkong Government for the sum of three hundred thousand dollars and to draw further from time to time on receipt of telegraphic instructions from you as suggested in the last paragraph of your despatch of the 28th of August. The sums thus remitted to England will be temporarily employed by the Agents for the benefit of the Hongkong Government, until the money, or part of it, is required to meet their expenditure in this country on behalf of the colony.

"It is impossible to foretell the course of exchange, or to foresee whether this process of remitting the surplus balances to this country will result in gain or in loss to the colony; but the only alternative course, which I should be prepared to approve, is that described in the last paragraph of my predecessor's despatch No. 222 of the 10th of October, 1890, namely, to place the surplus in a Government safe where it will earn no interest, but will at any rate be free from the risk of loss owing to unforeseen changes in the rate of exchange.

"The restrictions placed on the amounts of the bank balances are imposed not for the sake of profit, but of greater security, and, as I have said above, I see no reason for modifying the instructions of my predecessor that the aggregate of unsecured balances must not exceed \$350,000, whether that amount be divided between three or only two banks."

Since the starting of the Shanghai Crema- torium, two human corpses have been incinerated, the first being that of a child and the second that of the late master of a sailing vessel whose ashes are to be taken to the United States.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on 28th Oct. Dr. Atkinson (Principal Civil Medical Officer) presided, and there were also present Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS IN TAIPING-SHAN.

The minutes were read of a confidential meeting of the Board, at which some discussion arose in respect of plans which were laid on the table of certain building lots in Taipingshan. The President moved and the Medical Officer of Health seconded the following resolution:—"That the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board do not feel justified in consenting to any departure from the rules laid down in Section 12 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 for regulating the heights of buildings with respect to the building lots in question." All the members, with the exception of the Director of Public Works, voted for the resolution, which was therefore carried.

PLAQUE IN BOMBAY.

The official returns showed that from the 15th to the 30th September there were 147 cases of plague and 93 deaths in Bombay.

INSANITARY SQUATTERS' DWELLINGS.

A petition was forwarded by the holders of squatters' licences at Shaukiwan Hillside in reference to an order calling upon them to construct house drains in their houses. The petitioners pointed out that the houses were scattered here and there and there was a difficulty in constructing drains on a combined system. The petitioners therefore prayed the Board to send an officer to show how the drainage could be carried out and to inform them of the probable cost of the work.

In a minute the Secretary said he had seen the whole of the petitioners, who had no money. The average earnings per family were, he felt sure, under \$8 a month; a few families received under \$5 a month etc. Most of the holders were over sixty years of age. Not one of the petitioners would admit that he could raise \$10 towards improving his holding. The dwellings were probably not worth more than \$50 each and something like \$1,500 would cover the cost of resuming the land. If a little money was spent in laying out the ground it would sell at a moderate Crown rent, and there would not be much of a loss to the Government in a money sense and there would be a gain in a sanitary sense.

All the members, with the exception of the Director of Public Works, wrote recommending that the Government resume and lay out the land for building purposes.

The Director of Public Works, in his minute, said that possibly the occupiers or owners would, under pressure, carry out the work or make the dwellings fit for habitation at a less expense than that estimated by the Government Engineer. The petitioners should at least have a chance of doing so and he suggested that six months should be allowed them.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in the discussion which ensued, said it would be better, having regard to the growing population of Shaukiwan, for the Government to resume the land and lay it out for building purposes. The dwellings were all poorly built of rubble with earthen floors, and there was no drainage. They were dotted here and there on the hill side. It appeared from the papers that Crown leases had been granted to the owners because they had squatted there for a number of years and it was felt they had some claim to the land. He thought the time was now come for the Board to recommend that these dwellings be demolished and the land laid out in a proper manner and habitable dwellings erected thereon. He therefore moved that the papers be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Governor with the recommendation he had just made.

The PRESIDENT said he supposed there would be no difficulty in finding temporary habitations for the people.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH replied that he did not think there would be any such difficulty.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—These people are very old and poor and I think it would be well to point out other places they can go into, otherwise the result may be the very opposite of what we wish, and these creatures may crowd into over-crowded dwellings. I do not yet know much about the colony, but I think we ought to know of some other places to which these people can go before we send them out of their present homes.

The SECRETARY—They can find lodgings in the neighbourhood without any difficulty.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—There are only about a hundred people altogether.

Mr. EDE asked if there were any more of such dwellings, as the Board might have to take similar steps in regard to them.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said there were others, but they were more or less isolated, whereas the ones in question could be replaced by a row of houses.

Mr. EDE seconded the resolution.

Carried.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 16th October the rate of mortality was 16.3 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 15.3 for the corresponding period of last year.

The following minute was appended by the President:—I notice one death from simple continued fever. I always thought this a non-fatal disease.

For the week ended 23rd October the rate was 15.2. For the corresponding period of last year the rate was 16.6.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in reply to the President's minute, said as a matter of fact two deaths were recorded from simple continued fever. One occurred in the civil population, the victim being a non-Chinese infant under one month old. This case was certified by a medical man. The other case was that of a Chinese girl under fifteen years of age, which was certified by the District Inspector at Kowloon. He (the Medical Officer of Health) signed the certificate in this case, which was probably one of malarial fever.

DEFECTIVE DRAINS.

The Surveyor reported on the condition of the drains at the Homestead, Mount Kellett. He considered the drainage of the house was defective and recommended that the owners be called upon to re-drain in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance.

It was resolved to act on the Surveyor's suggestion.

THE SALE OF UNWHOLESOME FOOD AT AUCTIONS.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH asked for the authority of the Board to condemn a number of cases of condensed milk which had been seized by his instructions in two shops in Queen's Road West. He had opened several of the tins and the contents were all bad.

The Board granted the necessary authority.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH added that he did not intend to prosecute as he considered the loss of the tins was a sufficient penalty. He thought the Board might with great advantage take action in regard to the sale of food unfit for human consumption by auctioneers. Tins of milk, tins of biscuits, and other things, which were practically condemned stores from ships in the harbour, were sent to auction rooms and shopkeepers went and bought the stuff on the off chance that it was eatable and they then sold it in their shops. He thought some recommendation should be made to the Government that such food should be unsaleable at auctions. It could only be sold as food and it ought not to be sold.

Mr. EDE said he did not think it was possible to make a general rule because many stores from the ships were sent off because the captain did not want to have bad stuff at sea, although it would be all right when it was landed.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH said he knew it was a difficult question to deal with.

The matter then dropped.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until next Thursday week.

THE CASE OF MR. C. OSMUND.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION.
On the 1st November a telegram was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies conveying his decision in the case of Mr. C. Osmund, late first clerk in the Registrar-General's office, who was in August last called upon by the Executive Council to resign on a reduced pension. The Secretary of State, to whom the matter was referred, has declined to accept the resignation and directs Mr. Osmund's dismissal from the public service and the forfeiture of his pension. Mr. Osmund had been in receipt of a sustentation allowance up to the end of September, but this has now been withdrawn.

THE WEST YORKS "AT HOME."

On the 27th October Colonel Gordon and the officers of the West Yorkshire Regiment gave an "At Home" at the Polo Ground, the entertainment provided taking the form of a gymkhana. A very large number of residents accepted the invitation, amongst those present being His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G. The programme was a particularly good one, each event containing a very interesting feature. Perhaps the most unique competition was that in which the gentlemen pulled the ladies in rickshas. The coolies who surrounded the ground and admired the strength and fleetness of the gentlemen had a most striking lesson in the art of pulling a ricksha, although if the public rickshas went the speed attained during yesterday's race the coolies would perhaps be summoned for furious running. Mr. Worsley was first and His Excellency the Governor's popular A.D.C. was last but by no means least. During the afternoon the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment played several selections of music. The following are the results:—

POLO BALL RACE.—To hit a polo ball once up the ground through goal posts, and back again through the other goal posts. First through the second goal posts to win. Two prizes.

Capt. Phillips	1
Burney	2
" E. C. Creagh	0
" W. Gibson	0
" A. A. W. Spencer	0
" C. Platt	0
" C. W. Gordon	0
" D. Landale	0
G. Potts	0

EGG & SPOON BICYCLE RACE FOR LADIES.—Ladies to take up spoon with egg in it before mounting. 150 yds. straight. First prize presented by the Senior Subalterns.

Miss B. Jackson	1
" M. Holland	2
" Hancock	0
" J. Holland	0
" D. Jackson	0
Mrs. Murray Rumsey	0
" Palmer	0
" Long	0

POT POURRI RACE.—Owner of last pony to win. Rider of first pony to get second prize. Rider of last pony to stand rider of second pony a dinner. Lots to be drawn for mounts. No whips or spurs allowed.

Capt. Barry Drew	1
Mr. C. Platt	2
Dr. Clark owes Mr. Creagh One Dinner.	
Mr. D. Landale	0
" G. Potts	0
" R. Isacke	0
" E. C. Creagh	0
" W. Gibson	0
" A. A. W. Spencer	0
" V. A. Lawford, R.N.	0
" C. W. Gordon	0
" F. P. Worsley	0
" P. L. Ingpen	0
Captain Mould	0
" Burney	0
" Phillips	0
Lieut. Wardle, R.N.	0

LADIES' SLOW BICYCLE RACE.—Riders not to touch the ground and to start mounted. 100 yds. straight. Last past the post to win. First prize presented by the Junior Subalterns.

Mrs. Clarke	1
Miss Hancock	2
Mrs. Murray Rumsey	0
" Palmer	0
" Long	0
Miss M. Holland	0
J. Holland	0
" B. Jackson	0
D. Jackson	0

LADIES' NOMINATION RACE.—Ponies to be held by mafoos. Gentlemen to stand by their ponies, run 25 yds. to their Nominators with sealed envelopes containing an arithmetical problem. Ladies to solve problem and write answer on paper, which riders will carry back to their ponies, mount, and ride once round the course. First past the post with correct answer to win. Two prizes.

Mr. D. Landale	Nominated by Mrs. Palmer	1
Col. Gordon	" May	2
Mr. R. F. Drury	Mrs. Gedge	0
" C. W. Gordon	Miss Carrington	0
" C. Platt	Mrs. Ritchie	0
" J. Deverell	" Murray Rumsey	0
" A. A. W. Spencer	" Phillips	0
" W. Gibson		0
" G. Potts		0
" L. Ingpen	Mlle Vautier	0
Capt. Burney	Mrs. Wise	0
" Phillips	" Long	0
" Berger	Miss B. Jackson	0
Lieut. Wardle, R.N.	Mrs. A. Clarke	0
Dr. F. Clark	" Langhorne	0
Mr. V. A. Lawford, R.N.	" Holland	0

GENTLEMEN'S NOMINATION RICKSHA RACE.—150 yds. straight. Gentlemen to pull lady in ricksha. Two prizes.

Miss Brooke	Nominated by Mr. F. Worsley	1
Mrs. Kirch	Mr. Gibson	2
Mrs. Langhorne	Capt. Mould	0
Mrs. Palmer	Capt. Phillips	0
Mrs. Murray Rumsey	Mr. J. Deverell	0
Mrs. Wise	Mr. C. Platt	0
Mrs. C. S. Gordon	Mr. C. Ryall	0
Mrs. Ritchie	Mr. J. McKie	0
Mrs. Leigh	Mr. De Vitre	0
Mrs. Trevelyan	Mr. Pellew	0
Mrs. Phillips	Mr. D. Landale	0
Mrs. A. A. Clarke	Lieut. Wardle, R.N.	0
Miss Gordon	Mr. C. W. Gordon	0
Miss B. Jackson	Mr. V. A. Lawford, R.N.	0
Miss Hancock	Mr. L. Ingpen	0
Miss Matthews	Mr. W. A. Matthews	0
Miss Potts	Mr. G. Potts	0
Miss Carrington	Mr. L. Wodehouse	0

SIAMESE TWIN RACE.—To be ridden in pairs each holding one end of a tape 18 inches long. Once round the course. First pair past the post to win. Letting go tape disqualifies. No crossing of reins or other means of keeping the ponies together allowed. Two prizes.

Mr. E. Creagh and Mr. W. Gibson	1
Capt. Phillips and Mr. Platt	2
Mr. R. Isacke and Mr. F. P. Worsley	0
Mr. Moberley and Capt. Berger	0
Dr. F. Clark	0
Mr. A. W. Spencer and Mr. C. W. Gordon	0
Mr. V. A. Lawford and Mr. P. L. Ingpen	0
Mr. D. Landale and Mr. P. Cox	0
Capt. Burney and Mr. A. F. Stewart	0

CRICKET.**H.K.C.C. v. GARRISON.**

Ever since the birth of the H.K.C.C. the two matches a season played under the above heading have constituted the leading engagements in local cricket. For a long series of years the victory rested mainly with the club, but of late years the increase in the Garrison and the claims of business have put the competing elevens on more even terms. Upon searching the records of the last two seasons, we find that in each season the result was one victory apiece. The match under review was played on 29th and 30th October, in brilliant if hot weather and both sides had almost their full strength. Speaking generally, the present game was marked by weak bowling, much dashing hitting, some steady play, a large number of good long field catches, fair ground fielding, and intense keenness. Batting first on a medium pace wicket, the Club, represented by Hastings and Smith, made a good start with 62 for the first wicket. Of this the captain made 12 only, but his steadiness whilst the R.N. hit was of considerable use to his side. Ward joined Hastings and by hard hitting mostly on the leg side scored 30 (seven fours and two singles) out of 40 before being well taken in the long field by Langhorne off Ryall, who, on each occasion on which he was commissioned to bowl, effected the separation of batsmen. The next to go was Hastings, yorked by *le fils du regiment*. The retiring batsman had played a hard hit innings of 67, including a fine 6 and a 5 which ricochetted off the head of a passing native on to the parade ground. Barring a chance at the wicket, his cricket was sound and gave promise of even better performances. With Anton and Maitland together and both not shewing much respect for the bowling, an additional 40 runs was quickly put on before Anton, who had twice hit the ball out of the ground, fell to a brilliant catch by Ryall at point. Cox, another clear eyed hitter, partnered Maitland and runs again came apace till the second century was reached, when the P and O man was had by Moberley in the long field for a dashing if not correct 17. This made 200 for 5 wickets, a very rosy state of affairs, which, however, began to fade away when Maitland at 217 was taken by Johnston with a well judged catch off Ryall's trundling, which looked easy but had in it an allurement which proved fatal. Maitland batted as only he himself dare and can and showed pleasing signs of a return to his form of a few years ago: adsit omen. The rest of the team gave but slight trouble and we need only record the very fine catch by which Langhorne got rid of Mast and the farcical manner in which the last batsman ran himself out. Ryall's bowling was the most successful owing chiefly to the rashness of certain batsmen, whilst the Colonel shewed excellent form behind the sticks. Next morning, after five minutes batting overnight, Col. Gordon and Dyson faced the attack of Smith and Hastings. The former bowler was keeping a good length and soon had the A.P.D. representative smartly caught by Arthur Campbell, who succeeded, was clearly not at home and was not long before being bowled in lashing out in a manner quite unusual with him. Vallings, who came next, looked to have played himself in when he had the misfortune to return a hanging ball to the bowler. His successor, young Gordon, was not at home at all, and, after being shockingly missed at third man off Smith, was bowled by Hastings with an avenging yorker. Langhorne played steadily awhile but could not at last resist having a bang at Smith with fatal results. But in between the dismissal of the last two batsmen came the unfortunate termination of the gallant Colonel's innings marked by sound batting and lots of go. A coolie who was fielding as a substitute had been brought round to forward square leg, a maneuvre unobserved, we fear, by the batsman who played a ball straight to the fieldsman, who took a straight shy at the wicket and put an end to an excellent exhibition. Johnston who was now in settled down to one of his correct and confident displays. After the R.A. had left, Howard took the vacant place and should have been stumped second ball and caught at the wicket next ball. With this piece of ill luck for the Club tiffin intervened, the telegraph board showing 6 for 86. Upon resuming at 2 p.m. Johnston and Howard both batted well and it looked as if the let off before tiffin was going to cost the Club dearly. Hastings, however, sent Howard a beauty which beat him in length and break and just removed the leg bail, a ball to be proud of by all concerned. This made 7 for 107, when Moberley came to the rescue. Taking no liberties, he and Johnston played sterling cricket which was terminated by an unfortunate decision which caused the Surgeon Lt. Col.'s retirement to every one's regret at a time when his nerve was gradually putting a different complexion on the game. As on many previous occasions in Hongkong Johnston had shewn rare mettle and stuff at a pinch and we heartily congratulate him on his 38 and trust his steadiness at a crisis may prove infectious, unless too many of us are already inoculated against such a pleasant complaint. Will Davis in and anxious, we expect, to hit, Moberley continued to defy the bowlers. Smith and Hastings, on whom the burden of the bowling had already fallen, them displaced Mackenzie and Mast, and the end soon came, as Davis was caught at the wicket and Moberley's

A 1 display was cut short by a brilliant left handed catch at point by Maitland. Smith had the best analysis, bowling with judgment and determination. Hastings was more erratic, but sent down a few teasers now and again; both bowlers had most of their runs knocked off loose balls to leg. Nor was the Club fielding blameworthy taken as a whole.

With a comfortable balance of 62 runs, the Club started a second innings at 3.45. Tired after a long baking in the sun, no attempt was made to play a steady game as the match could not be lost. So Maitland, Ward, Anton (batting better than in the first innings), Cox, Mast, and Twyford went in for a free and easy game. Mast was the most successful and showed that the "wonted fires" still live.

Finally, it is apparent that many of the players require more practice and we trust the selected 16 will not fail to put in a lot of work this week at the nets.

The ladies of Hongkong shewed their interest by attending in force and the band of the regiment, kindly lent by Col. Gordon and his officers, discoursed pleasantly to a large audience.

In another part of our issue will be found the names of 16 players from whom the final selection to play against our visitors will be found.

The following are the score and analysis:

THE CLUB.

	1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
T. Sercombe Smith, l.b.w., b		
Dyson.....	12	
J. F. A. Hastings, R.N., b		
C. W. Gordon.....	67	
A. G. Ward, c Langhorne, b		
Ryall.....	30	b Davis
A. S. Anton, c Ryall, b Vallings.....	41	c Howard, b Ryall 18
F. Maitland, c Johnston, b		
Ryall.....	41	c Langhorne, b Davis 15
P. A. Cox, c Moberley b		
Howard.....	17	c Moberley, b Ryall 22
K. W. Mounsey, c Gordon, b		
Ryall.....	5	b Howard
E. Mast, c Langhorne, b Ryall	10	not out
A. Mackenzie, run out	13	l.b.w., b Ryall
H. Twyford, c Johnston, b		
Davis.....	1	run out
H. Arthur, not out	1	not out
Extras	6	Extras
	247	127

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs. Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.

First Innings.

Vallings.....	18	3	75	—	—	1
Howard..	11	1	46	—	—	1
P. G. Davies ...	13	2	34	—	—	1
Dyson	3	—	21	—	—	1
Ryall.....	12	1	37	—	—	4
C. W. Gordon	8.4	2	28	—	—	1

Second Innings.

Howard.....	4.4	—	21	—	—	1
Davis.....	11	—	30	—	—	2
C. W. Gordon	4	1	9	—	—	—
Ryall.....	9	—	46	—	—	3
Langhorne ...	6	—	19	—	—	—

THE GARRISON.

Captain Dyson, A.P.D., c Arthur, b Smith...	4
Col. Gordon, run out	27
Lieut. Campbell, H.K.R., b Smith	8
Rev. G. R. Vallings, c and b Hastings	9
C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R., b Hastings	11
Surg. Lieut.-Col. Johnston, A.M.S., l.b.w., b	
Mackenzie.....	38
Captain Langhorne, R.A., b Smith	6
T. N. Howard, W.Y.R., b Hastings	13
H. S. Moberley, H.K.R., c Maitland, b Smith	37
P. G. Davis, R.A., c Arthur, b Smith	16
C. Ryall, W.Y.R., not out	5
Extras	11
	185

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs. Maid. Runs. Wides. N.B. Wickets.						
Hastings	33	8	78	—	—	3
T. S. Smith ...	30.1	7	67	—	—	5
E. Mast.....	8	2	20	—	—	—
A. Mackenzie... 7	2	9	—	—	—	1

The report that Mr. J. B. Grimes has met with an awful death near Bangkok will, if true, cause a feeling of deep regret in this colony. It is said that he lost himself in a forest near Bangkok and being unable to find anything to eat lay down and died of starvation. Mr. Grimes went to Bangkok about two years ago from Hongkong, where he was very popular. He was one of the best oarsmen in the colony and an enthusiastic and hard working Volunteer. It is feared that the report of his terrible death is true, the information having been sent in a letter from Bangkok.

THE CHIT SYSTEM AND PUBLIC BARS.

An interesting point affecting the chit system in its relation to public bars arose on 29th Oct., morning in the Summary Court in a case in which Thomas's Grill Room sued G. Kirkpatrick for \$132.90, amount due on signed chits. When the case was called on Mr. Bishop, the former manager, came forward as representing the plaintiffs.

Mr. Justice Wise said—In the ordinary way you cannot sue for liquors in quantities less than \$5, and I think you are bringing this case because you think you have an adjunct licence. Under the Ordinance, so far as I understand it, an adjunct licence excludes a public bar; that is, an adjunct licensee is a restaurant keeper, who supplies drinks with food. A public bar is excluded, and I rather think there is a public bar at Thomas's Grill Room.

Plaintiff—It is for boarding there.

His Lordship—That's all right, but I suppose you are not going to argue to me that the refreshments supplied were not drinks? Were the drinks supplied with food? All of them were not, I think; some of them were supplied at the public bar, and an adjunct licence does not cover a public bar. I must have a detailed list of the whole claim; you must say what was for boarding and what for the public bar.

Plaintiff—Mr. Kirkpatrick admits—

His Lordship—A licenced publican cannot bring the action. I gave judgment in a similar case the other day because you said you had an adjunct licence, but an adjunct licence does not cover a public bar. I shall adjourn the case until next Friday.

THE VOLUNTEER CORPS 7-PR. AND MAXIM PRACTICE.

The following remarks on the 7-pr. R. M. L. and Maxim practice by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps on 16th October, 1897, at Stonecutters Island were issued to the Corps yesterday:

1.—Both Batteries were brought up into action smartly and correctly, the intervals being regular, and the line well dressed.

2.—The ranging with common shell was on the whole well done, but was inclined to be slow, and the corrections were as a rule not big enough.

3.—The lay was erratic, but this was due to the difficulty of laying at a moving object over the ordinary sights; the elevation was generally correct, but enough allowance was not usually made for the pace the target was going, and for the interval of time between the order to fire and the actual firing.

4.—With regard to shrapnel the fuze was not usually found. With this gun, the shells should be burst close up to the boats, say within 59 yards; many on Saturday last burst as far short as 200 and 250 yards. At that distance they would be quite useless.

One or two rounds that were fired with the correct fuze, did great execution.

The Maxims found their range quickly, but did not appear to be able to keep on the target for any number of rounds; this was due a great deal to the smoke hanging round the adjoining bushes. On another occasion it would be as well to have one number posted with each gun as an observer, with field glasses.

Considering the fact that this was the first occasion on which a moving target has been used, the practice may be said to have been good. There was a very decided improvement in the fire discipline, and the detachments appeared to understand it better. The Field Battery was no doubt handicapped in having one or two in the detachments who had not been through the preliminary fire discipline drills.

The results were satisfactory; one boat was waterlogged from a common shell fired by No. 2 gun; this would have sunk a European built boat. Another boat was badly injured by a shrapnel burst close up; and all the dummies except one were hit by either shrapnel or Maxim bullets.

By Order,
L. A. C. GORDON, Capt. R.A.,
Adjt., Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
Hongkong, 26th October, 1897.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE CUP FOR OCTOBER.

The following are the cards returned during the month, for which there were twenty-one entries:

Mr. F. H. Pellew	98	13	85
Mr. E. F. Mackay	109	20	89
Mr. G. Stewart	93	3	90
Mr. C. A. Tomes	99	8	91
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	100	8	92
Mr. W. J. Saunders	111	17	94

CAPTAIN'S CUP FOR NOVEMBER.

Subjoined are the returns handed in for this monthly competition, which was concluded on Monday:

Mr. H. W. Slade	105	15	90
Mr. W. J. Saunders	106	15	91
Com. Taylor, R.N.	102	11	91
Mr. C. A. Tomes	99	8	91
Mr. H. Smith	112	20	92
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	105	8	97
Mr. E. R. Morriss	111	14	97
Mr. W. A. Duff	110	12	98
Mr. C. H. Grace	109	9	100

14 entries.

POOL.

Mr. E. R. Morriss	100	14	86
Com. Taylor, R.N.	102	11	91

3 entries.

PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, was held at the Company's office, No. 9, Praya Central, on the 27th Oct., at noon, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the resolutions following, viz.:—

- 1.—That it is desirable to reconstruct the Company, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily, and that James Berwick Duncan, Esq., be and he is hereby appointed Liquidator for the purposes of such winding up.
- 2.—That the said Liquidator be and he is hereby authorized to consent to the registration of a new Company, to be named The Punjom Mining Company, Limited, with a Memorandum and Articles of Association which have already been prepared with the privity and approval of the Directors of this Company.
- 3.—That the draft agreement submitted to this meeting and expressed to be made between this Company of the first part and its Liquidator of the second part and the new Company of the third part be and the same is hereby approved, and that the said Liquidator be and he is hereby authorized, pursuant to Section 149 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, to enter into an agreement with such new Company when incorporated in the terms of the said draft, and to carry the same into effect with such (if any) modifications as he thinks expedient.

Mr. David Gillies presided and there were also present—Messrs. W. R. Loxley, J. H. Lewis, C. A. Tomes (Directors), J. B. Duncan (Secretary), A. P. Stokes (Solicitor to the Company), S

gentlemen, is a very serious state of affairs indeed, yet the first intimation we received of our reserves being likely to give out soon was from Mr. Phillips in his letter dated the 29th March of this year, when he informed the Board of Directors that he had suspended operations in the upper west leader stopes and the stopes on the north and south lode over the 210 feet level, leaving only four points from which to win quartz for the mill, viz., the stopes at and above the 110 feet level, the intermediate level, the stopes in the east and west lode, and the stopes west of the new shaft. The three former stopes, however, will continue to give stone for the mill for from three to four months longer, by which time they will be getting, if not quite, exhausted. The stopes west are an unknown quantity at present, but two months' working will prove whether it is a continuation of the intermediate stone or a separate chute of ore. In reply to this letter from Mr. Phillips we received a report from Mr. Blamey, dated the 14th April, in which the following statement occurs: "If, as Mr. Phillips states, the upper stopes are almost exhausted, and will be quite so within the next three months, and the chute of ore found to the west of the new shaft is an unknown quantity, then the outlook is far from bright. I do not, however, quite agree with him on this matter. True, the stopes may be poor, but they have been so on many former occasions, when by diving further on the face the stone gradually became richer. As to the chute of ore found to the west of the new shaft I can only say I have seen some very rich ore (specimens in fact) taken from it by Mr. Phillips himself, and seeing that it is to the west and north of any ore found hitherto at this level, that it is defined between clay slate walls, is highly mineralised, and is fully 6 feet wide in places. I shall be greatly disappointed if it does not turn out of real value to the shareholders. It may take say two months longer to get this point opened and in proper order for producing ore in quantity, but I have no hesitation in saying that in my opinion it will do so directly and this, too, at and above the 200' feet level, and seeing that the ore on this chute is better than it has been on either of the other chutes it augurs well for its being payable at the 300 feet level when found there." Again on the 27th September the manager writes regarding this same chute of ore as follows:—"Intermediate level.—The cross cut here to go out to intersect the course of the ore we are working in the stopes at the 200 feet level is now nearing the point where it should be found and may reach it any day." On the 4th of this month we received a telegram advising the discontinuance of stoping in the upper levels for the present. Now, although there is nothing very promising or tangible in the recent reports from the mine, yet we must not forget that the chute of ore found to the west in new ground and referred to by Mr. Phillips as an unknown quantity, and by Mr. Blamey as being better than has been seen on either of the other chutes, and although it was stated in April last that two to three months would prove this chute of ore, yet we were informed only last month that the cross-cut to intersect the course of the ore is only nearing the point where it should be found and that it may reach it any day. Since the discovery of this chute we have hoped that it would give sufficient ore of a payable value to keep the mill running until such time as the lode had been proved at the 300 feet level. So far our anticipations in this respect have not been realised, but until the cross-cut in the intermediate level has met with the chute of ore, it would be folly under the present circumstances to abandon hope. You are also probably aware that the August shaft has been sunk to over 300 feet and the drive out to the lode has been carried forward about 40 feet, and although the ground is very hard and most difficult to blast, yet, notwithstanding the unfavourable nature of the rock, we hope to reach the lode some time in December, when we trust the lode will be found to exceed all our expectations. The mill at present is being run on the headings, from which we obtain about 3 dwts. to the ton, a very low percentage indeed, but as there is no expense for mining and the mill is being run by water power the outturn will more than pay the cost of milling. But apart from the running of the mill we have the expense of all the under-

ground and surface work to meet, which although greatly reduced from what it was formerly is still a serious item, so that the returns we obtain from the mill and from the cyanide working is not sufficient to meet the total expenditure. This, gentlemen, is about as fair an account of the state of matters at the mine as I can well give you. We have met with considerable disappointment in not having been able to work on this chute of ore. You will observe that in April last Mr. Blamey stated that two months would enable us to open up on this ore and that the richness of it was, in his opinion, beyond doubt. So far this has not been obtained, but it is hoped that at any rate the cross-cut may reach this point, so that if the ore is as rich as was anticipated by Mr. Blamey, and as the indications warrant him in believing, I think we shall fall into a very good thing indeed. The shaft, as you are also aware, has been sunk down to the depth that we intended—a little over 300 feet—and the drive is now being continued out to meet the lode. This has been rather tedious work on account of the hard nature of the rock, but still we are making progress and, as I have already stated, we have gone in about 40 feet. It is hoped that by the end of December we shall have reached the lode and then we shall know what to expect. As the earnings at the mine are not sufficient to pay the expenditure we must prepare, if you wish to keep the mine going, to increase our capital in some way so as to provide the funds, in whatever way you may decide. Our funds in hand at Singapore on the 30th September were about \$17,151, and as our monthly expenditure has been from \$16,000 to \$17,000 we do not know exactly how those funds are at the present moment, but there cannot be very much in hand to meet current disbursements until the October gold is sent down from the mine. The liabilities in Hongkong during the next three months will amount to \$5,652. This includes all office expenditure in Hongkong and the cost of sundry invoices of cyanide and stores, iron, etc., for the mine which are now in transit. So that we shall have to pay about \$5,652 before the end of December, and at the present time we have a credit balance in Hongkong of \$75,62. Your directors have very carefully considered what would be the most advantageous manner of raising further capital and to their minds it seems that the only satisfactory way of doing so is by a voluntary winding up of the Company and the forming of a new Company in accordance with the resolutions which you have seen appearing in the newspapers. These resolutions will be and be submitted to you. In the meantime the memorandum of agreement between the Company and Mr. Duncan, who, it is proposed, shall act as liquidator in the matter, will be explained to you by the Company's solicitor, Mr. Stokes. He will also explain the Articles of Association, and I had better ask Mr. Stokes to make these explanations now.

Mr. STOKES.—The first resolution is that it is desirable to reconstruct the Company and that accordingly the Company be wound up voluntarily, and that Mr. J. B. Duncan be appointed liquidator. The second resolution is that the said liquidator be and he is hereby authorized to consent to the registration of a new Company, to be named The Punjom Mining Company, Limited,—that is, keeping up the same name as we are using at present,—and that this Company be registered with a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The third resolution is the one I have to deal with. It reads—"That the draft agreement submitted to this meeting and expressed to be made between this Company of the first part and its liquidator of the second part and the new Company of the third part be and the same is hereby approved, and that the said liquidator be and he is hereby authorized, pursuant to section 149 of the Companies Ordinance, 1865, to enter into an agreement with such new Company when incorporated in the terms of the said draft, and to carry the same into effect with such (if any) modifications as he thinks expedient." I hold in my hand the agreement made between the parties I have just mentioned. The first clause provides for the sale by the old Company of all its assets to the new Company. The old Company and the liquidator sell and the new Company purchase. The second clause of the

agreement provides that the new Company pay and satisfy all the debts and obligations of the old Company and hold the old Company indemnified against them in respect to the costs incidental to the winding up of the old Company. The fourth clause, which is a long one, is to the effect that the new Company gives to the liquidator, as he requests, 60,000 ordinary shares of \$4 each paid up and 30,000 preference shares of \$1 each fully paid up. Each shareholder is to apply to the liquidator within one month after the issue of the notice requiring application for shares in the new Company. The form of the application is also provided by the liquidator. If shares are not applied for within one month of such notice it is the duty of the liquidator to sell those shares and to hold the proceeds and to hand them to the shareholders who are entitled to those shares, and all the shares not applied for within four months of the date the resolutions are passed become the property of the new Company. Then there are the usual provisions as to rescinding this contract in the event of there not being sufficient shares applied for, in which case the reconstruction scheme will have to fall through and you will have to meet again. These are the usual provisions in an agreement of this sort and the usual form has been followed. In regard to the Articles of Association I may say they are based almost entirely on the old articles. I do not know that there is any article to which I have to draw your attention beyond what your Chairman will mention. The only article that has been particularly altered is in regard to the voting of members, which has been more clearly defined and certain alterations have been made. The provisions have been made more clearly and the notices to shareholders will be by way of advertisement. In many cases it has been found that shareholders neglected to send in their registered address to the Company and it is often difficult to give notice to shareholders. That is provided for and notices will be given by advertisement.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before proceeding any further with the business before us I would be very glad if any member present would make a suggestion or two. Perhaps he might be able to advise us for the benefit of the Company, and I assure you that the directors will be very glad to give heed to any suggestion that may be made by shareholders.

No shareholder spoke and the CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, if you have no suggestions to offer I shall now proceed to propose the resolutions. Before doing so I think it is my duty to read to you the alteration that has taken place in Article No. 82, page 23 of the Articles of Association. In the former Articles of Association no mention whatever was made of the voting of preference shareholders. Therefore it was assumed that the preference shareholders would be entitled to the same rights and privileges as the ordinary shareholders. For this reason the Board thought it advisable that an alteration should take place and that the voting of preference shareholders should be placed beyond a doubt, and it was decided by the Board that as the ordinary shareholders were coming forward to find the capital in this instance very much in the same manner as the preference shareholders did on a former occasion they should be entitled to some little consideration on that account. That consideration we propose to give in the manner of allowing votes. Formerly the preference shareholders had the same voting power as the ordinary shareholders, namely, one vote for every ten shares. Now it has been proposed by the Board that as the ordinary shareholders are coming forward to subscribe another \$4 they should be entitled to a larger proportion of the voting power. The alteration is as follows:—"Every holder of ordinary shares, who shall have been duly registered, shall be entitled to one vote for every ten ordinary shares held by him, and every holder of preference shares, who shall have been duly registered, shall be entitled to one vote for every forty preference shares held by him." That is to say, the preference shareholders were formerly entitled to one vote for every ten preference shares they held, but as the ordinary shareholders are now about to put up an additional \$4, it is only right that the voting should be in proportion—it ought to be eight to one, but instead of giving that we propose to

take it at one fourth; that would be, as they are putting up another \$4, that for every ten shares held by the ordinary shareholders they should have one vote and preference shareholders one vote for every forty shares, so that the proportion is pretty well on the same footing as it would have stood in the former Articles of Association providing the votes had been in proportion to the value of the shares. I think, gentlemen, that as business men with unbiased views on the matter you will think that the Directors have acted very fairly in the matter. However, it is left in your hands. If you do not think it is right you have the power to alter it providing there is a majority in your favour. Before proceeding with the resolutions, gentlemen, I think it would be well to have an expression of opinion with regard to the voting powers. I shall, therefore, await for what you have got to say on this matter and I shall give your remarks every consideration.

Mr. HUGHES—Do you propose then that this power shall be graduated, because the ordinary shareholders paying \$1 now would be receiving more than their share of voting so long as the call was confined to the \$1.

Mr. GEORG thought the alteration would be quite fair, as the ordinary shareholders had a liability.

Mr. HART BUCK—You should not lose sight of the fact that in a great many cases the holders of preference shares have given a great deal more than \$1 for their shares.

Mr. LOXLEY—We cannot recognize that fact.

Mr. HART BUCK—I do not think it is quite fair.

The CHAIRMAN—The voting power was not very clearly stated in the old articles. The old articles, as far as the voting power went, were never altered to meet the case of the preference shareholders. That was an oversight. It ought to have been mentioned that preference shareholders would be entitled to such and such a vote or to no vote at all, and I think it is only right that it should be mentioned now. But you must remember that the ordinary shareholders are placed in a very different position now. The value of their shares will be \$8 instead of \$4.

Mr. HART BUCK—if they are fully paid up?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes. I hope the necessity of their being fully paid up will never arise. I hope they will not be paid up, but at the same time if the mines are to be carried on it is hard to say what we have before us. It may be necessary to spend money for new plant if we find the lode where we expect below the 300 feet level. I think it will be better to call up \$1 now and to have the power to call up \$3 at a future date. I think it is more in the interests of the Company that this provision should be made now to avoid coming back to the shareholders in another two or three years for some more money.

Mr. JORDAN suggested that the opinion of meeting be taken on the question of the reconstruction of the Company, leaving the question of the voting to be dealt with afterwards.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the first and second resolutions, which he said the Company's Solicitor suggested should be taken together.

Mr. GEORG seconded.

The motion was carried, there being only one dissentient.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed the third resolution.

Mr. GEORG seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I may mention, gentlemen, for the benefit of those who have not received a circular that was issued, that the holder of every ordinary share in the present Company will be entitled to receive one ordinary share in the new Company, which share will be liable to an immediate call of \$1; the balance (\$3) will be called up as the Directors may deem necessary in calls of \$1 each, and thirty days' notice will be given of each call. A meeting will be held in fourteen days to confirm what has taken place to-day. Due notice will be given in the usual way by advertisement in the local papers.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "That the Articles of Association of the new Company as drawn up and submitted to this meeting be accepted."

Mr. GEORG seconded.

Carried. There were two dissentients.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. I have to thank you very kindly for your attendance.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the operations carried on at the Company's mines for the month ending September 30th, 1897:—

August Shaft.—The crosscut we are driving at the 300 ft. level here has received our best attention, but owing to the ground being very hard and bad for blasting the progress is not so good as I had hoped for, 26 ft. only having been driven for the month. The "plat" or chamber has been cut and the necessary timbers, both for it and the shaft, put into position.

The ladder-way also has been brought from the 200 ft to this level, and everything put in good order. I fully expect to reach better ground during the coming month, and that much better progress will then be made.

200 ft. Level.—The ore in the stopes to the west of the New Shaft having become too poor to pay the cost of working, I have decided to discontinue almost all work here, for the present, at least. The reef is strong, but terribly hard, and is just suitable for rock drills.

A cross-cut has been commenced to go out to receive the North Shaft when it reaches this depth, which should be within the next two months.

Intermediate Level.—The drive being driven north here to go up to the North Shaft has been extended 23 ft., and is now letting down water pretty freely. Another two months will see the connection made.

The cross-cut west to intersect the course of the reef we are working at the 200 ft. level is now 64 ft., and should reach the point where the ore should be found in the course of a few more days.

The drivage for the month is 39ft. 6in.

Upper Stopes.—These stopes having now been worked up to very near the surface, we have discontinued work there, and shall take out the ore by means of an open cut on the surface. This will mean a considerable reduction in the cost per ton of ore mined at this point.

North Shaft.—The pump here gave us great trouble in the early part of the month, but is now doing much better. Ground sunk for the month 22 ft., making the total depth of shaft from surface 162 ft.

Drivage for the month 129 ft.

Ore mined 389 Tons.

Milling.—This was carried on during 28 days, crushing 389 tons of ore from the mine, yielding 58 ozs., and 1,837 tons of old headings, yielding 106 oz., 6 dwts., of smelted gold.

Calcining Works.—These works treated 15 tons of concentrates for a yield of 12 ozs., 10 dwts., to which was added other 12 ozs., 10 dwts. got from grinding old weathered concentrates in the Berdans. In our cable this appeared as 25 ozs. got from calcining.

Cyanide Works.—These works ran 21 days, treating 504 tons of old tailings for a yield of 200 ozs. 6 dwts. of bullion valued at £1 0s. 8*1/2*d. per oz. The reason why so few days were worked and such a small quantity of tailings treated during the month is that we had to lift the new water wheel into position and our having commenced the clean-up on the 27th of the month so as to have it completed in time to send out the bullion with the returns from the mill.

General.—We have given the usual attention to all work coming under this head and kept everything in good order.

Labour.—The supply of this has been fairly plentiful.

Health.—This has not been so good as I could wish, fever and dysentery being prevalent. It is better now, however.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 16*1/2* inches.

The Spanish steamer *P. de Satrustegui* arrived at Colombo from Manila on the 10th October bound for Barcelona. She was full of troops, sick and invalided, returning home from the Philippines, and many of them suffering from severe wounds. During the voyage to Colombo eleven deaths took place, and, on arrival, over fifty passengers were very ill.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The first general meeting of the shareholders in the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held on 29th Oct., at noon, at the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Lütgens, Einsmann and Co., 20, Stanley Street. Mr. R. C. Wilcox presided and there were also present—Messrs. G. C. Cox, G. A. Atzenroth (Directors), C. Schenck, O. von der Heyde, L. Lambotte, Th. W. Vogelgesang, E. Georg, and Ho Fook.

The CHAIRMAN, after reading the notice calling the meeting, said—Gentlemen, as you are no doubt all aware, this meeting is merely the statutory meeting of the Company, held in compliance with the provisions of the Companies' Ordinance, under which it is registered. There is no business before the meeting, and I have little information to impart, as we have done our best to keep you posted, through the Press, concerning all developments at the mines. It may, however, interest you to know what our acquisitions at Mount Macdonald have been since the registration of the Company. Originally our property consisted of the Great Eastern Mine, containing nine acres, and the Caledonian, consisting of twelve acres, or, in all, 21 acres. We have since acquired a further 22 acres surrounding and connecting with our mines, some of which lots enable us to control the water supply from the creek, and others (including the Zulu Mine) promise to yield us handsome returns. All this land has been secured on most favourable terms, the greater part indeed for the mere cost of pegging and the licence fees. In the Zulu Mine, for which we paid £200, a lode has already been struck nine inches in width, and estimated to carry 2 ozs. of gold to the ton. Concerning this acquisition we are informed, by Mr. Georg's last letter, that

"Mr. Cash thinks such a great deal of the Zulu Reef that we are going to sink a shaft there also, for he predicts with confidence that it will turn out a great show. I am so pleased with this purchase that I would have advised you to pay a great deal more for the lease had it been wanted." I may mention that, according to our last advices from the Mines, the work then in hand consisted of one main shaft, 200 feet, in the Caledonian Mine; one underlying shaft of 150 feet from the present bottom of the old shaft in the Zulu Mine; and one main shaft in the Great Eastern Mine of 200 feet. In the next report from the Mines we shall no doubt have some information of the progress of the work. When that letter was written they had only commenced sinking a few days, and had sunk depths varying from 4 to 11 feet. Of course there is nothing certain in mining, and it would be folly to imagine that we shall meet with no obstacles, but, so far as our manager can reckon, our prospects are, in his opinion, very encouraging indeed. If there is any other information which shareholders would like to have I shall be glad to supply it. All the letters and a plan of the mine are open for perusal by any shareholder.

No questions were asked and the meeting concluded.

RAUB.

The Acting Mining Manager's Report for the four weeks ending on 21st October, 1897, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole, 220 ft. Level:—The main west crosscut has been extended 42 ft. during the month, making the total distance from the shaft 328 ft. A bunch of quartz about 18 in. thick has been passed through in this crosscut, but no gold could be seen in it. When we get in a few feet further I will come back and open out and drive a few feet on it to ascertain if it carries gold. The North Drive, on the lode formation, has been extended 19 ft., making the total distance from the crosscut 248 ft. There is no change here, the ore still continues about 4 in. thick, but no gold can be seen in it. Stopes, south from the No. 2 Winze.—The stone here is smaller and is not quite so good as it was as we appear to be getting through the ore chute in this end. North of the No. 2 Winze.—The ore continues to increase in size here, and will average about 15 in. thick in which gold can be freely seen in breaking.

Bukit Koman.—No. 1 Level North.—The lode in the face of the drive has pinched smaller, and for the last few feet has only averaged about 13 inches thick. Although the lode is smaller, it has improved very much in quality, and now carries better gold than I have seen in this drive for months past. This drive has been extended 21 feet during the month, making the total distance from the crosscut 519 feet. The leaders on the west side still continue to carry fair gold. **Winze No. 1 North.**—I have commenced a winze to connect the Nos. 1 and 2 north levels. This winze is now down 17 feet, all the way in solid quartz. For the first few feet water gave us some trouble, but we were fortunate enough to cut a fissure in the ore which has completely drained the winze, all of the water running through to the No. 2 level. **South Drive.**—We have had a change of country here, the slate being soft laminated slate, but as yet no signs of the lode in it. I am in hopes that the lode will make again in this soft country. This drive has been extended 35 feet, making the total distance from the crosscut 702 feet. The prospecting crosscut has been extended 50 feet, making a total distance of 68 feet. A bunch of ore has been cut in this crosscut; it is about 16 in. feet thick and carries a little gold. There are still a few quartz leaders in the face of the crosscut. I will continue it a few feet further, then come back, open out, and drive on the ore already cut so as to ascertain what it is. Years ago, when first opening this mine, a bunch of leaders carrying very fair gold was cut on the east side of the shaft, and a considerable amount of quartz was got from them. I am in hopes that the ore cut in this crosscut is a continuation of these leaders, as they are about the same distance east of our main lode. Should this prove to be the case, it means that we have another lode to the east running parallel to our main lode. Gold has been got in the ore in the shaft and also in the prospecting crosscut, a distance of about 660 feet apart, being the only places where we have cut through the ore, so we can reasonably expect that it carries gold all this distance. Should further exploration prove this to be the case, it will add greatly to our ore reserves and the value of the mine. **Stopes No. 2 South.**—The lode is larger, being now about 11 feet thick of fairly good ore, but is not quite as solid as it was. **No. 3 Stop.**—The lode here is only about 6 ft. thick, but will get larger again a few feet further south. The lode has been broken up and mixed with mullock. It is all sent to the battery, mullock and all, as it is impossible to separate it, and it is, therefore, all counted as quartz. **No. 4 Stop.**—I have started this stop coming south from the No. 2 air shaft. The lode is small, being only about 4 ft. thick and is rather mulloky at present, but will improve when we get a little further south. **No. 4 South Air Shaft.**—The total depth of this shaft is now 138ft., we have about 42 ft. to go before we hole through to south stopes. **Bottom Level.**—**North Drive.**—The lode here is making solid again, and is now about 6ft. thick of nice quartz, but I do not see any gold in it. There is a lot of water making from the face of this drive; it is evidently coming from the winze above. The total distance from the main crosscut is now 174 feet. **South Drive.**—This drive has been extended 15 feet, making the total distance from crosscut 240 feet. The lode continues to carry gold, and is about 12 feet wide, but not quite so solid as it was. There is nice solid stone making again on the footwall side of the lode, which for some time past has been mixed with slate.

Bukit Jellis.—Very good progress has been made with the sinking of this shaft, which has now been sunk and timbered to a depth of 93 feet. As we have no winding machinery here, all the work has to be done by manual labour, which will make the sinking slower as we get deeper. A quartz leader was cut in the south east corner of the shaft, but it is of no value.

Battery.—On Monday, 11th inst., a rough clean up of battery took place, when 1,446½ tons yielded 2,465 ozs. amalgam. The following are the particulars of the ore crushed: **Bukit Koman** 1,344 tons, **Raub Hole** 102½ tons, total 1,446½ tons. This is an increase on our usual tonnage crushed, and is accounted for by having to take mullock with the ore from the south stopes; this stuff requires almost no crushing.

After doing some repairs to the boiler, etc., crushing was resumed at 4.45 the same afternoon, and has continued steadily since. During the month, we had to stop 5 head to renew the old battery box which was completely worn out. Advantage was taken of the stoppage to dress the piles and thoroughly overhaul the foundation logs. A new battery box was put in, and crushing resumed after a stoppage of 5 head only for 34 hours, the other 15 head going on working as usual.

Electric Installation.—This work is well in hand now, and, the weather having taken up, good progress is being made with it. A survey of the cart road from Simpam Gap to the flume line has been made, and a start made at the construction of the same. A contract has been let to some sawyers to cut the flume timber, and we have another party of contractors started blasting a site for the power station.

General.—The health of the camp is good, there being very little sickness amongst the coolies, and all of the Europeans are in good health.

GILBERT B. WHYTE.

EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Limited, was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Shanghai on the 25th October. Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (Chairman), A. McLeod, J. Prentice, Zee Ti-san (Directors), C. Dowdall (the Company's legal adviser), P. H. Arnhold, A. J. Howe, A. K. Craddock, R. H. Burder, A. W. Danforth, J. Paterson, C. E. Anton, G. J. Morrison, W. C. Murray, J. Mackenzie, J. M. Young, W. A. Cruickshank, E. Evans, J. D. Clark, A. Shearer, and Tong Kid-son, representing in all 3,897 shares.

After the notice convening the meeting had been read by the Secretary, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—This meeting being now duly constituted I purpose before submitting to your decision the resolutions which have been circulated amongst you, to offer a few preliminary or explanatory remarks which may not be without interest to those who by investment in this Company's shares have shown their confidence in the enterprise. The original prospectus provided, as you are aware, for a mill to contain 40,000 spindles, but upon the arrival of our mill master, Mr. Kerfoot, he pointed out that the mill buildings had been planned on so liberal a scale that we could find space for 10,000 more spindles. It is self evident that this increase of 25 per cent. in the power of production was an advantage it was our duty to avail ourselves of without delay, and the necessary steps have been taken to that end. These 10,000 extra spindles were, of course, not contemplated in the original provision or capital, and their cost, plus an excess over estimates for buildings (due mainly to the fact that four mills were being built at the same time) will bring the landed property, machinery and building accounts up to a million and a quarter taels. Of this amount, however, about two lakhs are represented by land, godowns, houses, and offices, which will serve as well for 100,000 spindles as for 50,000, and having now had our first six months' experience of cotton spinning in China, I am glad to feel justified in bringing before you the necessary resolutions for that increase in our productive power. The past six months have, as you can all well understand, been a period of initiation and necessarily of many difficulties, which with past experience will, it is hoped, in future be avoided. We commenced on May 10th with 4,000 spindles, which by degrees have been added to until now we have 25,000 running day and night. The average number for the period has been slightly over 13,000, and when I tell you that we purpose closing the accounts on the 31st of this month, and with the aid of interest on capital account, shall be in a position to recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of 7 or 8 per cent. per annum, you will, I think, admit that our labour has not been in vain, and that there is visible evidence in justification of our faith in the industry. As already stated, we have now 25,000 spindles running; we have 3,000 more erected and ready to start, and

hope to have the remaining 20,000 out in January, but the regrettable strike in the engineering trade at home may cause some delay as to the latter, and with respect to the 3,000 spindles erected but not at the moment running they need not, I think, occasion you anxiety—the fact is that the increase in spindles has been more rapid than the increase in labour. I am not alarmed at this; time will cure it and you will, I think, agree with me if you bear in mind that already some 70,000 to 80,000 spindles are being run by people who, a year ago, knew nothing of such work, and when you also consider the enormous increase in the silk filature factories which have during the past few years successfully passed through similar experiences. We need not fear; supply of labour will surely overtake demand, and excess of supply will not only be an incentive to skill but a reliable check on an excessive wage. From what I have said, and also by our action in connection with the proposals now to be put before you, we have evidenced our opinion of the future, and holding that opinion we are desirous of saving time in starting the extension recommended. It is to save time, and time is money, that we have called this meeting, for if you agree to the resolutions we hope to avail ourselves of the coming winter to get on with the ground work and foundations of the new mill, and the sooner that is done the sooner shall we be ready for the additional machinery. In fixing the 31st of December next as the date on which the register of shareholders will be closed for the making up of the list of those entitled to the new allotment, we have selected a date which will permit of applications for the same being sent in after the Chinese New Year, thus entailing no call whatever for funds until the native settlement is over, and even then for but a very small sum. With respect to finance, the resolutions seem clear and little more need be said. The present mill of 50,000 spindles will cost complete a million and a quarter, and we expect to save some two lakhs on the extension; we have thus to provide for a total expenditure of something like two and a quarter million taels, or say £285,000 when rendered in sterling. The calls on the new shares will be Tls. 10 on application and Tls. 15 on allotment, whilst the other Tls. 75 per share is only leviable when required in calls of Tls. 25 per share at intervals of two months. So far as we can see these funds will suffice for the greater part of next year, and the debentures will not be necessary until we come to payments for machinery. There is no intention of issuing these debentures *en bloc*; the money will only be required from time to time, and we anticipate no difficulty in finding outlets, as occasion may arise, for these securities. This mode of finance will, we believe, prove the most economical and efficient, and in order that debenture holders may be in the soundest legal position, we purpose inviting two well-known local residents to act as trustees. I am glad to say that Mr. W. D. Little and Mr. Dowdall are prepared to accept the position of trustees; and you will, I am sure, be very pleased to welcome Mr. Alex. McLeod, who has kindly consented to fill the seat on the Board vacated by Mr. Adler on his leaving for Europe. I have dealt now with every point of interest which occurs to me, though before putting the resolutions to the meeting, I will endeavour to answer any questions bearing on the resolutions should anyone desire further information.

Mr. Ph. Arnhold said that before the resolutions were passed, he thought it would be better for them to make sure that cotton spinning in Shanghai would be a success. He also thought that the General Managers' commission, even at 4 per cent., was excessive, and went into detailed figures to prove his contention. He moved that the meeting be adjourned until the directors could put figures before the shareholders to show that the cotton spinning industry was likely to prove a success.

In reply, the Chairman said:—I am very pleased to find that Mr. Arnhold at least agrees with me as to the prospects of the industry. As to postponing the extensions until we show figures I have already said we intend to close the accounts to the 31st of this month and then to hold a meeting, and as we are compelled to hold a meeting confirmatory to this one, shareholders will see what the position is from our accounts before the confirmatory meeting is held. We wish the resolutions passed now so

as to enable us to proceed with the groundwork of the extension during the winter months, and to get on with the buildings before others take similar steps or new mills are started, which might again create the building difficulties of last spring. As to commissions, my predecessor in the chair stated the policy of our firm when he said the Company would always be treated with consideration, and the fact of passing the resolution as to commission does not preclude us from continuing the same practice in case of necessity. If no one desires to second Mr. Arnhold's amendment I will now put the resolutions.

As Mr. Arnhold was unable to find a seconder, the Chairman proceeded to put the resolutions to the meeting.

Proposed by Mr. E. F. Alford, seconded by Mr. J. Prentice:—That the capital of the Company be increased to Tls. 1,750,000 by the creation of 7,500 new shares of Tls. 100 each and that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company be modified accordingly.

Carried, with one dissentient.

Proposed by Mr. E. F. Alford, seconded by Mr. A. McLeod:—That 5,000 of the new shares be issued subject to the following terms and conditions; and that the remaining 2,500 shares be held in reserve for issue at such time as the Company in general meeting may approve:—
(a)—One new share shall be offered at par to the holder, on a date to be fixed by the General Managers, of every two old shares. (b.)—Any shares not taken up under the preceding clause shall be disposed of by the General Managers with the approval of the Committee, on such terms as they may think proper. (c.)—Tls. 10 per share shall be paid on application and a further sum of Tls. 15 per share on allotment; and the balance due in respect of each share shall be paid in instalments of Tls. 25 each upon not less than two months' notice of call. (d)—The new shares shall rank for dividend, after the closing of the books for the current year, *pro rata* in proportion to the amounts from time to time paid up thereon. (e.)—Holders of new shares may pay them up in full in advance of calls being made. (f.)—The new shares shall not entitle the holders to votes until they are fully paid-up.

Carried, with one dissentient.

Proposed by Mr. E. F. Alford, seconded by Mr. J. Prentice:—That sanction be and is hereby given to the General Managers, with the approval of the Committee, borrowing for the purposes of the Company money up to a total amount of Tls. 750,000, at such rate of interest as the General Managers, with such approval as aforesaid, may fix; the principal and interest to be secured by debentures, creating a first charge upon the present landed property and all buildings and machinery now erected and to be erected thereon.

Carried by 21 to 1.

Proposed by Mr. J. Prentice, seconded by Mr. A. McLeod:—That, with the consent of the General Managers, the commissions of 1½ per cent. mentioned in clause 10 of article XV. of the Articles of Association be, in each case, reduced to ½ per cent.; and that the Articles of Association be altered accordingly. Provided that this reduction shall not take effect until the 5,000 new shares shall have been allotted.

Carried unanimously.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

—N. C. Daily News.

HONGKONG AND GOLD.

The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce recently decided that, in consideration of the Colony's close commercial relations with China, it would not be advisable to place the currency on a gold basis. We observe, nevertheless, that the *Hongkong Daily Press* continues to advocate the adoption of the gold standard. The *Daily Press* has always been a staunch supporter of bimetallism, and its present attitude is one of despair, not of changed conviction. It thinks that if no hope of the international rehabilitation of silver can be entertained, and if country after country is resolved to turn its back on the white metal, things will fare badly with a community that refuses to follow the general lead. We can appreciate such an apprehension. If the demonetization of silver proceeds much farther, its fitness to discharge the duties of a

medium of exchange will become very doubtful. Another strong point made by our Colonial contemporary is that China, since she has pledged her customs revenue as security for a large gold loan, will soon find herself under the imperative necessity of fixing the sterling value of that revenue. She counts upon it to pay off the interest and principal of her foreign debt, which it certainly will not do if she collects it in coins that threaten to become mere tokens. The French in Indo-China have just recognised that they are confronted by a similar source of embarrassment, and have converted their customs dues into sterling by assessing them in francs. It would not be by any means so easy for China to adopt a similar course with her customs revenue. She is perfectly competent to demonetise silver and resort to a gold currency, as Japan has done, but to make such a change in the domain of her foreign trade only would be a discrimination against which the Treaty Powers might justly protest. Besides, it is easy to speak of collecting the duties in gold, but when we come to consider the details of such a measure, grave difficulties present themselves at once. The unit would have to be a Chinese gold coin. By no possibility could all the subjects and citizens of the various Treaty Powers be required to adopt the currency of any one of their number for duty-paying purposes in China, neither is it conceivable that China should consent to collect her revenue in half a dozen different kinds of coin. Her only course, failing a gold currency of her own, would be to fix the sterling value of the Mexican dollar once and for all, and we do not believe that she could ever induce Western countries to agree to anything of the kind. Even assuming that she could, the fact would not add materially to the embarrassments attending the circulation of silver dollars in Hongkong. None the less it appears to us very improbable that any community of merchants should be able to work successfully with a silver currency if the demonetization of the white metal by so many nations is to remain permanent. But will it remain permanent? We cannot think so. England is the chief—may we not say the sole?—obstacle to an international agreement for the rehabilitation of silver. Now if England had to consider her interests as the world's creditor only, she would assuredly hold firmly to her gold conservatism. But she has to consider something else. She has to consider the interests of a section of her subjects numbering no less than 300 millions. What is to be done about India? The rupee now has a fictitious sterling value which has destroyed its use as a measure of the country's hoarded wealth, and, moreover, the Government stands in the extraordinary position of offering to buy the people's gold at a price for which it declines to sell its own gold. We doubt whether the history of the world offers any precedent for the singularly anomalous financial system now existing in India, and it is impossible to conceive that a nation possessed of so much economical wisdom as the English have proved themselves to possess, should suffer such a system to remain long in force.—*Japan Mail*.

CHANGES IN KOREA.

MR. MCLEAVY BROWN TO BE REPLACED AS FINANCIAL ADVISER BY A RUSSIAN.

A correspondent writing from Korea to the N. C. Daily News says:—

We are on the eve of important changes which will not only affect the Korean nation but change the whole aspect of affairs in the Far East; and unless one or more of the Treaty Powers interfere, Korea will speedily become Russian territory. M. de Speyer is a much abler diplomat than was M. Waeber, in fact the two can scarcely be mentioned in one sentence, they are so utterly unlike, not only in manner but in policy. M. Waeber spent most of his time in the study and left the duties of his office to others, whilst M. de Speyer has been most active since he landed, and although he has been in Korea scarcely more than a month, he now has the whole country in his grasp. The army is entirely under Russian instructors (and I must add that the troops are wonderfully well instructed), the Arsenal is in charge of a Russian officer, and now Mr. Alexieff has come to Korea to take Mr. McLeavy Brown's place as adviser to the Finance Department. A number of other

foreigners whose contracts have now expired are not to have them renewed. Some of these were never needed, for their advice was never sought nor taken if given, and they were chiefly employed at the earnest solicitation of the country's representative at Seoul. With Mr. Brown, however, the case is different. He has been enabled in twenty months to accumulate sufficient money to pay off the three million dollar loan of Japan, and now just that he has accomplished it the finances are to be taken out of his hands. This fact will be very much regretted, for as I said before, unless one of the Treaty Powers (besides Japan, which need not be reckoned) interferes Mr. Alexieff will take charge of the finances almost before this letter reaches Shanghai. Japan in the meanwhile is not idle and has now begun to build barracks in Fusen. The Japanese fleet has been surveying all the southern coast of the Peninsula and will soon pay a visit to Chemulpo. They have and are still using money freely in purchasing the good will of Korean officials.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN KOREA.

It will be fresh in the minds of our readers that a few days ago we mentioned the fact that a Russian gentleman, M. Alexieff, had been appointed to superintend the Financial Department of Korea. It was not quite clear that this arrangement would end in Mr. McLeavy Brown being replaced, but we now learn from a most trustworthy source that all British subjects and American citizens holding Korean Government appointments have, or are to receive their *congé*, and that Russians will be appointed in their stead. It is said to be particularly evident that Russia intends bringing Korea completely and speedily under her dominion, and it is the opinion of most of the best informed foreigners in the Farther East that there is now no hope for Korea unless Great Britain joins Japan in opposing this latest and longest stride in Russian aggression, and in that case it is not improbable that the United States would co-operate with them. It is also reported that the Russians in Söul are taking active steps to suppress all foreign newspapers of any kind, published, or to be published, in Korea.—*Mercury*.

DESTRUCTIVE TYPHOON IN THE PHILIPPINES.

El Comercio contains a detailed account of the devastations wrought by the typhoon of the 12th October in the province of Leyte. The storm proved to be one of the most terrific and disastrous ever recorded. Thousands of lives were lost, whole towns and villages have disappeared, and certain portions of the coast have been completely modified. Entering Samar by the Bay of San Pablo y San Pablo the storm first devastated the southern portion of that island, and then penetrated Leyte by Sanauan, some 7 miles to the south of Tacloban. It next made itself violently felt in the south of Masbate, then, passing around Sibuyan and Remblon, and going over Lablas, crossed Mindoro and the China Sea, and finally spent itself at Hoihow on the morning of the 18th.

No correct account of the damage done to the other islands has as yet been received, but at Tacloban, the capital of Leyte, everything has been destroyed and the whole town has been converted into one mass of ruins. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of lives lost, but 120 corpses of Europeans were buried and as many more must have disappeared, washed away by the sea, which in some places overflowed to a height of three metres. The number of native victims is computed at from 400 to 500. The corpses showed marks as if mortal wounds had been inflicted, and the sufferers must have died most violent and agonizing deaths.

The survivors are now looking for money and whatever they may find among the ruins of their houses. It is a wonder to all so many have succeeded in escaping. The only dispensary in the place has disappeared and the inhabitants are now deprived of any medicines they may need. What particularly tends to increase the painful situation is that just before the storm there was an abundance of rice in stock, the greater portion of which has been carried away by the inundation, and what remains is unfit for consumption, being com-

pletely soaked with sea water. In spite of the terrible catastrophe and the general havoc, everything is being done to preserve order in the place. The Acting Governor, with an activity which does him immense credit, called together all the European residents to discuss the best means of coping with the emergency. An incident, trivial in itself, serves to illustrate the vigilance that is being kept over the town. During the storm 112 prisoners managed to escape from the Gaol, but the Captain of the Civil Guards has already recovered 89 of them and is still seeking for the rest, fearing they might do mischief. Among the most notable edifices that have been destroyed may be mentioned Government House, the Treasury, Barracks of the Civil Guards, the different Courts, the Parish Church, etc. The premises of the Singer Manufacturing Company were also blown down, and in spite of the efforts of the manager to save some of the machines the greater portion of them have been lost. The province now presents a most mournful picture and sorrow is depicted in the faces of all. Homes, property, everything has been destroyed, and thousands of people are now scattered over the island trying to find food and a place wherein to stay. The coast is strewn with the wreckage of vessels, a number of which must have been lost. The loss of life by sea and land must have been something horrible to contemplate. It is reported that the town of Hernani, in Samar, which contained 6,000 souls, has altogether disappeared, and at Loog, a town in Rombron, only three houses and some cocoanut trees remain.

The following readings of the barometer were recorded at Tacloban on the 12th October:— At 4 a.m., 754 millimetres; at 6, 751; at 7, 748; at 8, 746; at 9, 742; at 10, 738; at 11, 728. It was only at 7 p.m. the barometer indicated that all danger was past. It then showed 755 millimetres and continued to rise till 12 midnight when it was normal. In one locality the lowest reading observed was at 0.40 p.m., when it stood at 722 millimetres.

HONGKONG.

The preparations for the Hongkong cricket week, which commences on Monday next, are now well in advance. The Straits cricketers arrived by the last English mail and have put in much time at the nets. The Shanghai team is expected in a day or two. The officers of the West Yorkshire Regiment gave an "At Home" or the polo ground on the 27th ult., and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. On Wednesday the shareholders in the Punjor Mining Company, Limited, decided to wind up the concern and to form a new Company. The Sanitary Board met on Thursday. On Friday the shareholders in the Great Eastern and Caledonian Mining Company, Limited, held their statutory meeting. The death on Sunday of Mr. James Sampson, who was born in Hongkong, caused general regret in the colony, he having taken a keen interest in sporting matters, particularly rowing. On Monday the Legislative Council met and the Appropriation Bill was read a second time and afterwards considered by the Finance Committee. The Secretary of State's decision in the case of Mr. Osmund, late first clerk in the Registrar-General's Department, who was called upon by the Executive Council to resign on a reduced pension in August last for having received bribes, was that Mr. Osmund be dismissed from the public service with the forfeiture of his pension.

General and Mrs. Black returned from the North by the Indo-China steamer *'Chrysanthemum'*.

The woman who endeavoured to set fire to a matshed occupied by another woman with whom she had quarrelled was on 26th October committed for trial.

Two performances of "A Pair of Spectacles" by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club are announced, the dates being Tuesday and Thursday, 9th and 11th November.

Another case of defrauding the Post Office came before the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse on 26th October. A shopman living in Hillier Street was charged with sending to Canton mail matter by means other than through the General Post Office. He was seen by a constable to deliver a number of letters containing money to somebody in the compradore's office on the steamboat. A fine of \$50 or six weeks' imprisonment was imposed.

The telegraph steamer *Sherard Osborne*, having completed the laying of the cable between Manila and Visayas, left Manila on the 28th October for Macao, to repair the cable between Macao and Hongkong.

Captain Loveband, A.D.C. to H. E. General Black, returned on the 2nd November by the *Empress of India*. Captain Loveband has been spending a holiday at Banff to recuperate after the severe attack of typhoid fever from which he suffered in the spring.

The enquiry into the death of Tso Shin Kin, who was murdered on the night of the 17th inst. on the road between Yanmatti and Chinese Kowloon, was resumed on 29th October. The finding was that the murder was committed by some person or persons unknown.

A Chinese passenger on the Kowloon ferry launch which left Pedder's Wharf at 11 o'clock on Monday night jumped overboard a few minutes after the start. Another passenger missed him and gave the alarm, but although the launch steamed round the spot for about a quarter of an hour the body was not recovered.

At the Police Court on the 2nd November Lam Lum, a fishmonger, was charged with offering a bribe of \$1 to a clerk in the Registrar-General's Office for the purpose of obtaining the reduction of the price demanded for a stall in the Sookunpo Market from \$4 to \$3. The evidence of the clerk was taken and the case remanded till Friday next, bail being allowed in the sum of \$100.

A resident in Hongkong, having made enquiries in London respecting the North China and Developments Company, Limited, about which there was much discussion when it was registered, has received the following reply:—"Respectable concern. Have a good balance at bankers; capital not all publicly subscribed. Not much work done at present. Cannot express any opinion as to success."

The grant of the opium farm, commencing on the 1st March, 1898, has been settled. From the Governor's speech delivered at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 25th October it appears that there will be an increase of \$86,000 a year in the revenue, but as the new opium farm does not begin until next March the increase next year will be no more than about \$71,000.

On Saturday a man and his wife were committed for trial on a charge of causing the death of a woman named Lam Mui, who died from injuries which, it is alleged, were caused by the prisoners during her pregnancy. While the case was being heard the court was cleared of everybody except those who were concerned in the case, so that the morbid taste of many people was fortunately not satisfied.

Chan Kai Ming, first clerk, and Chau Shan, second clerk at the Magistracy, and Cheung Shiu Po, a shroff, severed their connection with the Magistracy on the 1st inst. It was alleged that they had been in receipt of bribes from a gambling house keeper, and Hon. H. E. Wodehouse was appointed to inquire into the allegations. After the inquiry the two clerks and the shroff sent in their resignations, but whether this was done voluntarily on their part is not publicly known.

Six months' imprisonment was the sentence imposed on 1st Nov. on a man who swindled a friend of \$4. The complainant was short of work and on the 25th ult. the prisoner obtained a Post Office mail notice and handed it to complainant, telling him that if he showed it on board the *Empress of China* he would obtain employment. For his services the prisoner demanded \$4, which the complainant willingly gave. Of course when he boarded the *Empress of China* he found he had been cruelly hoaxed and at once gave information to the police.

Two lots of Crown land at Percival Street, East Point, were sold by auction on Monday afternoon. The first lot, No. 1,451, contains 34,240 square feet, the annual rental being \$378; the upset price was \$7,533. The second lot, No. 1,452, contains 17,230 square feet and the annual rent is \$193; the upset price was \$3,790. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. bought both lots for \$20 above the upset price. There was another sale of Crown land on Tuesday, the property being Inland Lot No. 1,453, Kennedy Road. It contains 30,364 square feet and the annual rental is \$228. This lot was purchased by Mr. Belilos for \$4,580, or \$25 above the upset price.

The transport which is to convey the Lancashire Regiment from Malta to Hongkong will leave England on the 11th inst., and it is expected that the West Yorkshire Regiment will say good-bye to Hongkong about the first week in January. The West Yorks will go to Singapore, where the Rifle Brigade will embark on the transport for England. A freight ship carrying details will leave England for Hongkong about the middle of December.

The Committee of the Cricket Club met on Saturday and selected the following, from whom the eleven to represent Hongkong in the inter-port matches will eventually be chosen:—A. S. Anton, H. Arthur, G. O. Campbell, H.K.R.; P. A. Cox, Col. Gordon, W.Y.R.; C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R.; J. F. H. Hastings, R.N.; T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.; Surg. Lt. Col. Johnston, A.M.S.; Capt. Langhorne, R.A.; F. Maitland, H. S. Moberley, H.K.R.; T. S. Smith, A. G. Ward, M. D. Wood, Rev. G. Vallings. A special net will be put aside for the practice of these members and it is earnestly hoped by the Committee of the Club that they will avail themselves to the full of the coming week's opportunities to get into form.

The St. Cecilia Society has been established in Hongkong for the purpose of cultivating the taste for music, and on Saturday, 30th Oct. the inaugural concert was given in St. Patrick's Hall, Garden Road, a large number of people being present. The concert was conspicuously successful and we sincerely trust the Society will prosper, not only by way of increasing its own number of vocalists and instrumentalists, but by winning the support and appreciation of the general public. The programme consisted of nine musical items and a short and pleasant speech, which was delivered by Mr. J. McGregor Forbes, who presided in the absence of Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. All the contributions, vocal and instrumental, were highly appreciated; the efforts of the orchestra showing how carefully Mr. A. Cattaneo, the hon. conductor, had accomplished his work.

Prince Nor-Kut-Urh-Tut, uncle to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, in command of the Royal body guard with permission to wear the three-eyed peacock's feather and walk in His Majesty's presence, recently purchased some medicine from A. S. Watson & Co.'s branch at Peking. His Highness was so pleased with the beneficial result of his purchase that he sent that firm a testimonial with the following inscription in Manchurian characters on red silk:—

"To Dr. Watson of Great Britain
"Sickness disappears at the touch of
your hands."

We understand A. S. Watson & Co. have quite a collection of similar testimonials from high Chinese officials, one of which, sent by Li Han-chang, brother to His Excellency Li Hung-chang, goes so far as to refer to the celebrated "Dr. Watson" as the Saviour of China.

It has now been established, even to the satisfaction of the Government we believe, that the sewage in the disused sewer near the P. & O. Office runs down from house drains, and not up from the harbour, as was alleged. The place is worth a visit, even at the expense of having to endure an abominable stench, though modified somewhat by the use of chloride of lime. The mouth of the sewer was closed some time ago, it being supposed that all the house drains formerly discharging into it had been diverted. In taking up the old Praya wall, however, it was discovered that there was a large accumulation of filth. An official explanation was published to the effect that this filth had been washed up from the foul foreshore, but further investigation has revealed the fact that one or more house drains have all the time been discharging into the sewer. As there are no reliable plans of the old drainage system it is not extraordinary that the whereabouts of some of the drains should be unknown, but surely the mouth of a sewer should not be closed until careful investigation has shown that there is no discharge into it. The affair is an accident, but one of those accidents that ought not to occur. It must not be forgotten, however, that Hongkong is "one of the best drained cities east of Suez," a statement for which high official authority exists.

On Saturday, 30th Oct., a Hongkong Chinese detective and his informer were arrested by the Macao police under somewhat interesting circumstances. It appears that one of the Hongkong detectives banished in July last won between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in the Waising lottery, and he went to Macao to draw the money. The Chinese detective who has been arrested, on hearing of the man's good luck obtained leave and went to Macao. On arriving there he went to a boarding house and it is alleged that he told the people there that he had been sent by Mr. May, the Captain Superintendent of Police, to inquire about the detectives banished from Hongkong in order to ascertain what they were doing. He afterwards went to another boarding house armed with a loaded revolver and there met the man for whom he was looking. He told him he wanted a share of the money won in the lottery. The winner replied that the detective had not taken a share in the ticket and therefore could not have any of the proceeds. A quarrel ensued and it is alleged the Hongkong detective drew his revolver, but fortunately friends intervened and prevented any mischief being done. The Police heard of the affair and arrested the detective, who had a revolver in his possession, and his informer.

Many of our readers will regret to learn of the death of Mr. James Sampson, which occurred at the Civil Hospital on Saturday, 30th Oct., at six p.m. He had been found by the police earlier in the afternoon lying unconscious at Happy Valley and on being taken to the hospital it was found that he was suffering from sunstroke. The deceased was an old Hongkong boy, the eldest son of Mr. Sampson, formerly chief boarding officer in the Harbour Department, and was for a number of years a prominent figure at the annual Regattas, being one of the finest oarsmen the colony has seen. He also took a keen interest in other descriptions of sport, but rowing was his speciality. He was by profession a surveyor, and received his training in the Public Works department. He afterwards entered the service of the British North Borneo Government and subsequently went to South Africa, but did not remain there very long. Returning to Hongkong he re-entered the Government service here, but again resigned his appointment, and was latterly in Shanghai and again in North Borneo, but, we believe, did not practice his profession there, his attention having been diverted to mercantile pursuits. He returned to Hongkong a few weeks ago, intending after a short stay here to proceed to London. He was, however, evidently in a very shattered condition, which would render him liable to succumb easily to fatigue or shock, and to those who saw him during the last few days his sudden death will not cause surprise.

The case in which four women and one man were alleged to have demanded money from a woman on the false pretence that she had poisoned her daughter again came before Mr. Wodehouse on 27th Oct. In regard to the male accused, who was charged separately from the women, he did not appear when his name was called and Mr. Mounsey asked for the case against him to be remanded as it was thought the man was in Canton and could probably be brought to Hongkong within a week. He was the compradore of the Straits Insurance Company and Mr. Davis, the manager, was his surety to the extent of \$500. His Worship said he could not consent to any arrangement in the case. The recognizances would be estreated and a warrant for the missing man's arrest would be issued. Mr. Mounsey, who appeared for the four women, then said that he would be compelled to retire from the case as Pun Sun Shing and his concubine were the principal witnesses for the defence. His Worship said that if the man returned within a week Mr. Mounsey had better petition the Government for the return of the bond money. The case against the four women was then gone into. Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, said the deceased's stomach contained no opium, and Dr. Thomson expressed the opinion that the deceased had died of tubercular disease of the lungs. Evidence of the attempted extortion with threats having been given His Worship convicted the women. He sentenced one to six months' imprisonment and the other three to three months with hard labour.

The enquiry into the death of the Chinaman who was killed by an explosion in the foundry of the Cosmopolitan Dock was resumed on 27th October by Hon. H. E. Wodehouse. Mr. Dixon, Government Marine Surveyor, said he had visited the scene of the accident, and concurred with Mr. E. J. Main, foreman engineer, as to the cause of the explosion. He suggested the ground under the cupola might be made to slope from the cupola instead of towards it as at present to prevent the accumulation of water under it. Mr. Main thought it might be done and promised to report the matter to Mr. D. Gillies. His Worship suggested that in future accidents of this sort should be reported to the Police immediately after the occurrence, instead of as in the present instance after the death of the victim. The finding was that death was accidentally caused by an explosion.

Wong Chuk Lam and Pan Pun Chi were charged at the Police Court on 1st Nov. with champerty. Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution. Wong Chuk Lam was defended by Mr. K. W. Mounsey and Pan Pun Chi by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson. Mr. H. L. Dennys said the case was the first of its kind that had been before the court, and was brought by the Captain Superintendent of Police. He explained very fully the term champerty and in what the offence consisted. The facts were that at about 9 p.m. on April 5th a fishing junk was run down off the Lyemoon Pass by the P & O steamer *Rosetta*, which was coming into Hongkong at the time. The owner of the junk, Kwok Hin Tai, and others on board were picked up by the *Rosetta* boats, but the owner's mother, uncle, wife, and child were drowned. The next day Kwok Hin Tai went into the Wing Cheong on, a Seaman's Boarding House in Victoria Street, and there met Pan Pun Chi, who upon hearing of the accident, offered to engage a lawyer to obtain compensation from the P. & O. Company. He likewise undertook to defray all costs, if Kwok Hin Tai was willing to let him have 60 per cent. of whatever amount was recovered for the loss of the junk and 30 per cent. of the claim for lives lost. Kwok Hin Tai accepted the terms, and was brought to Mr. K. W. Mounsey's office, where he had his statements taken down by Wong Chuk Lam. This latter paid on his behalf \$50 to Mr. Mounsey and two suits were instituted against the P. & O. Company. On 17th May the P. & O. Company, through their compradore, offered Kwok Hin Tai \$2,000 in settlement of his claims, but he demanded \$4,400. The compradore, however, promised to raise another \$300 by public subscription and the offer was then accepted. \$2,000 was paid on the same day by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master, solicitors for the P. & O. Company, but from the amount \$150 was deducted by Mr. K. W. Mounsey for lawyer's fees and \$950 by Wong Chuk Lam, leaving only the balance of \$900 for Kwok Hin Tai. The transaction leaked out through some dispute about the \$300 promised by the P & O compradore but which has not yet been paid. The evidence of Kwok Hin Tai was taken and the case remanded till Thursday at 11 a.m., bail being allowed in two sureties of \$500 each or in one surety of \$1,000 for each of the defendants.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Vice-Admiral Sir Alex. Buller, K.C.B., arrived at Shanghai from the North in H.M.S. *Alacrity* on the 26th October.

It is the intention of the Directors of the International Cotton Mill at Shanghai to pay a dividend of 3½ per cent. on the Mill's working up to the 30th of September last.

From the *Taiwan Nippo* we learn that the erection of the lighthouse in Garanbii, near South Cape, has been commenced under the superintendence of the Formosa Government. The completion of the work is expected to be reached within the current year.

Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kwangsi, having been recently denounced by a Censor for alleged misgovernment, has, by an edict of the 17th October, been superseded by Huan Huai-sen, Governor of Yunnan, whose place in the latter post is given by the same edict to Yü Hsiang (Manchu), the Provincial Treasurer of Yunnan.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A correspondent writes to the *N. C. Daily News*:—The article on "Apologies" which appeared in your issue of the 22nd instant, recalls an amusing instance of an apology which was offered in all good faith in one of the out-ports not long ago. A gentleman who had reason to think that he had been insulted in a Club by one of the members, appealed to the Committee for redress. The latter transmitted his complaint to the person concerned, and enquired if the language referred to had been designed to give offence. In reply, they were informed that nothing had been further from the writer's mind than to be offensive; that the remarks he had made were purely in jest; and, in conclusion, he added, "If I have inadvertently spoken the truth, I am very sorry for it!"

Messrs. Dyce & Co., of Shanghai, agents for the Sui Chong Filature Co., have published in the Shanghai papers a correspondence with the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai in reference to the rate of insurance charged for their filature, which is situated at Jessfield, practically in Shanghai. It appears they have been paying 1 per cent. less 10 per cent., or nine-tenths per cent. net, whereas they have discovered that a filature at Soochow has been insured in Shanghai at 2 per cent. net. The answer of the Association was in the first instance that they had no control over risks taken at Shanghai, but after further representations as to the character of the respective risks, they replied that though they could not accede to the application for a refund of the premium paid in excess of the ordinary Shanghai rate they would look into the question of a reduction of the rate in future. Messrs. Dyce and Co. then wrote:—"Under these circumstances there is only one course open to us to obtain redress for the unfair manner in which we have been treated, and that course we now intend to take. We therefore give your Committee notice, through you, that unless we receive a more satisfactory reply from you on or before Thursday next (the 28th inst.), it is our intention to send copies of this correspondence and a full statement of the facts to the Chief Manager of every British Office represented on your Committee, as we are convinced that they will object to their names being brought into disrepute by being coupled with such Chinese tactics as have been practised on us. Furthermore, we intend to publish the whole of this correspondence in the local newspapers as a warning to others who may have risks, a little out of the ordinary, to insure, that, in dealing with the Fire Insurance Association of Shanghai, they must be prepared to haggle about rates as if they were dealing with natives, and not with an Association consisting of the representatives of respectable Foreign firms."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 2nd November.—*Congous*.—About 4,400 boxes have found purchasers during the last two weeks at from Tls. 9½ to Tls. 22 per picul. Prices we consider are unduly high, judging by sales from London. *Scented Capers*.—In the same period about 8,800 boxes have been settled, almost all by one buyer; prices range from Tls. 11½ to Tls. 26 per picul, being firm at the advance quoted in our last. A few more piculs of leaf are expected from the country, but we do not expect the total settlements for the season to much exceed 212,000 boxes. So many teas are now practically contracted for and settlements are so falsely reported that we find we are considerably out in our estimate of the total settlements, which should now be recorded at 210,000 boxes against 230,000 boxes at same date last season. We expect the total export will reach 4½ million pounds, but should not exceed that figure. Stocks in native hands are practically nil and any further settlements must depend on fresh arrivals of leaf from the country. *Long Leaf Pekoes*.—We hear that about 1200/1500 boxes have been contracted for, a part of which is already shipped. Prices have not transpired, but are probably about the same as were paid for first crop tea.

SHANGHAI, 29th October.—From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.—Our last "printed" Tea market advices were dated 15th instant. Black Teas.—A small business has been done at about previous rates.

Settlements reported are:—			
Ningchow ... 1,346	1-chts. at Tls. 15½ to 18½ a pel.		
Hôhow	640	14 to 15	"
Oonam	2,583	13½ to 20½	"

4,389 ½-chests.

Stock, 9,854 ½-chests.

Green Teas.—Pingsueys.—The settlements of good quality Teas show a strong market with a tendency to advance, but buyers are cautious when dealing with any Teas at all doubtful. A few sales of Teas shipped to New York on native account are reported at satisfactory prices.

Country Teas.—The demand for shipment to the United States has slackened considerably, but our market has been supported to some extent by buying for England consequent on the news received of favourable results of a few early crops. Finest Teas show a decline of Taels 3 to Taels 5 on offers once refused, but it is difficult to calculate the difference in laying down cost owing to the fluctuation in exchange. Medium and fine Teas are also easier in taels prices, but common qualities continue firm. Local packs have been taken at full prices considering their poor quality. Supplies of Country Teas and Local packs have already exceeded the total yield of last season by 17,000 half-chests, and it is almost impossible to find out from native sources how much more is available. Receipts after this date last season were 24,000 half-chests. Our estimate of 200,000 half-chests for total supplies of Country Teas and Local packs together is likely to be within the mark by a few thousand half-chests. The quality of late arrivals, especially of the Moyunes, is fully up to that of average seasons, but there is a noticeable sameness in the grade, very few of the crops rising above medium quality. Hysons.—There is no demand for shipment to Bombay. A few parcels of "choicest" have been settled at full prices—Taels 48 being the highest quotation. All other qualities are quiet, and the stocks of medium to fine in Tea-men's hands are unusually large. There is no pressure to sell and reasonable offers are generally refused.

Settlements reported are:—

Pingsuey	5,420 ½-chts. at Tls. 28 to 40 a pel.
Moyune	10,934
Tienkai	12,646
Fychow	1,785
Local packed	236

Total..... 31,027 ½-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

Sett'ements.		Stock.	
½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.
1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
Pingsuey	60,003	103,379	31,461
Moyune	67,518	68,326	
Tienkai	72,285	16,046	14,813
Fychow	21,029	14,322	
Local packed	15,727	7,430	1,019
Total.....	245,625	239,503	564
Total arrivals to date:—		46,793	20,037
Pingsuey	100,464	against 115,357	
Country Tea & Local packed	191,954	151,183	to date last year
Total.....	192,418	269,540	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	4,919,452	4,951,010	
Shanghai and Hankow ...	11,366,685	16,200,152	
Foochow	10,664,212	11,517,217	
Amoy.....	591,749	184,217	
Total.....	27,515,108	33,152,626	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	15,514,538	12,766,874	
Amoy	10,285,975	11,825,075	
Foochow	5,897,972	5,420,028	
Total.....	31,697,585	30,017,977	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	23,351,959	21,473,889	
Kobe	13,506,618	10,441,354	
Total.....	36,858,577	31,914,243	

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow ...	19,424,560	22,949,123	

Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	\$4.63 to 4.68 per pel.
do. .. 2, Brown...	4.54 to 4.57 "
Swallow, No. 1, White...	7.23 to 7.27 "
do. .. 2, White...	6.80 to 6.83 "
Suntow, No. 1, Brown...	4.62 to 4.65 "
do. .. 2, Brown...	4.50 to 4.53 "
Sooglow Sugar Candy	11.11 to 11.15 "
Sinkloong	9.72 to 9.75 "

SILK.

CANTON, 20th October.—Teatrees.—No business has been doing and quotations are nominal. Re-reels.—Are in very short supply. There has been some enquiry from America and about 50 bales have been bought at \$563 for No. 1. Filatures.—Business has been checked by the advance in exchange and very little has been doing during the last half of the fortnight. Dollar prices remained nominally unchanged, but business could be done actually somewhat lower than quotations. Little has been doing in Short-reels for America. There are rumours of a partial failure of the 6th crop, the deficit in which is stated to be 40 per cent. Waste.—All sorts are firm at subjoined quotations.

SHANGHAI, 29th October.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkhill & Sons' Circular).—London advises quote Gold Killin 9½, Blue Elephants 10½, and a firm market. Raw Silk.—There has been a fair business passing this week and the higher grades of Teatrees are firm and good prices have been paid for them. The dealers, on the strength of what has been sold this week, are asking higher prices, thus preventing execution of some orders. Teatrees.—About 700 bales have changed hands, a great part for delivery in two weeks, thereby gaining the advantage of weak forward Exchange. Tay-aans.—50 bales have changed hands. Yellow Silks have been dealt in to the extent of 350 lbs. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 21st to 27th October, 711 bales White, 418 reeels Yellow, and 171 piculs Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Re-reels have changed hands to the extent of 150 bales. The Export of Filatures to date is as follows: to Continent 1,990 bales, to America 2,568 bales, to London 16 bales, and to Japan 4 bales. Waste Silk.—A small business has been passing during the week, as follows:—

50 Curly No 1	60
50 .. 1, 2, 3	48.50
50 .. Woosieh Pierced Cooons 70 per cent.	60
150 .. Compo Crapauds (whole bales)	21
100 .. Showshing White Pierced Cooons	78 per cent. 77
100 .. Tussh Waste 60 per cent, 40 per cent.	25 21

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2.73; Freight Tls. 7.80; or bale:—

Sett'ements.	Stock.	Tls.	Stlgs.	per per	per pel.
½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.	½-chts.	per pel.	per pel.
1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.		
Pingsuey	60,003	103,379	31,461	14,978	
Moyune	67,518	68,326			
Tienkai	72,285	16,046	14,813	14,495	
Fychow	21,029	14,322			
Local packed	15,727	7,430	1,019	564	
Total.....	245,625	239,503	46,793	20,037	
Total arrivals to date:—					
Pingsuey	100,464	against 115,357			
Country Tea & Local packed	191,954	151,183	to date last year		
Total.....	192,418	269,540			

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	29,216	-	21,311
Canton	13,032	-	13,705
Yokohama.....	9,288	-	3,676
Total.....	51,536	-	28,692

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.			
1897-98	1896-97	lbs.	lbs.

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Persian.—There has not been much doing during the period under review. Current rates are \$500 to \$680 for Oily and \$550 to \$700 for Paper-wrapped according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—
New Patna 1,141 chests.
New Benares 505 ..
Malwa 410 ..
Persian 670 ..

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.						
Oct. 27	\$ 710	—	\$ 707½	—	780/800	820/870
Oct. 28	705	—	705	—	780/800	820/870
Oct. 29	700	—	700	—	780/800	820/870
Oct. 30	695	—	692½	—	780/800	820/870
Oct. 31	695	—	692½	—	780/800	820/870
Nov. 1	695	—	692½	—	780/800	820/870
Nov. 2	701½	—	703½	—	780/800	820/870
Nov. 3	703½	—	707½	—	780/800	820/870

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 3rd November.—A further reduction of fifty cents has been made, which induced small business. Stock, about 1,780 bales.

Bombay \$17.00 to 17.25 p. pl.
Kurrachee 15.50 to 16.00 ..
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca 16.50 to 17.00 ..
Shanghai and Japanese 20.00 to 21.00 ..
Tungchow and Ningpo 20.00 to 21.00 ..
Madras (Best) 17.00 to 17.25 ..
Sales: 1,220 piculs Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd November.—Owing to large arrivals and the reaping of the new crop in the Canton district prices have experienced a heavy decline. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	.....	\$2.72 to 2.75
" Round, good quality	.....	2.96 to 3.00
" Long	.....	3.20 to 3.25
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	.....	2.75 to 2.80
" Garden, No. 1	.....	3.06 to 3.10
" White	.....	4.10 to 4.15
" Fine Cargo	.....	4.25 to 4.30

COALS.

HONGKONG, 3rd November.—Market quiet. Sales of Japanese 10,000 tons at \$8.75 and \$10.25. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	.....	\$16.50 to 18.00 ex ship.
"	.....	\$9.00 to 9.40 small.
Australian	.....	10.50 lump.
Miike Lump	.....	10.00 to 10.25 ex ship, nominal
Miike Small	.....	\$5.50 to 10.00 nominal
Moji Lump	.....	8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd November.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE Goods:—Bombay Yarn.—695 bales No. 10 at \$86 to \$94, 385 bales No. 12 at \$84 to \$95, 85 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$91, 510 bales No. 20 at \$95.50 to \$108. Grey Shirtings—300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Men at \$2.85, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$1.15. T-Cloths—600 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag C. C. at \$3.07½, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Crown at 2.80, 375 pieces 7 lbs. 4 Dragon and Flag at \$2.20, 1,120 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.42½. Drill—450 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.35, 150 pieces 15 lbs. Large Eagle at \$4.90, 150 pieces 14 lbs. No. 2.0 at \$3.60. Long Ells—150 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.35. Camlets—150 pieces A.A.A., dark blue, at \$2.80.

METALS.—Iron—2,520 piculs Old Fish net at \$2.50, 2,910 piculs Old Ship plate at \$2.10. Tin—200 slabs Foonghai at \$39.50, 200 slabs Siam at \$39.25. Quicksilver—250 flasks at \$123 to \$127.

SHANGHAI, 23rd October.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s. Piece Goods Trade Report)—We think it can be safely said that the market has never been in a worse state than it is at present. There is absolutely nothing doing, beyond the Auctions, and deliveries of former purchases have fallen off lamentably. It must be admitted, however, that the dealers have had an unprecedented combination of circumstances to contend against, which bids fair to knock some of the gilt off the much vaunted integrity of the Celestial as a merchant. They are all right in fair weather, and with a favourable breeze go along swimmingly, but now they have got into a tight place their true character shows up, and quite justifies the

remark made by a prominent Importer of long standing, that the class of men we deal with is deteriorating. This has undoubtedly come about by the spirit of gambling that has been introduced into the trade, assisted by the laxity displayed by Importers as regards getting proper security for the due fulfilment of contracts. Men of no credit or standing have been allowed to cut into the business of old established houses and goods have been indentured for in an indiscriminate manner, trusting to the demand arising for them by the time they arrived, instead of having an outlet assured, to a certain extent, before they were ordered. It is reported that several of the smaller firms have disappeared already, and some of the better known dealers are declining to take up their goods, or even attempt to do so. Orders from the outside markets are still withheld, probably with good reason, as they are said to be at prices much below what Importers could accept. Meanwhile the time is rapidly drawing nigh for the closing of the Northern Ports, and still deliveries barely come up to the arrivals. A very heavy stock will have to be carried through the winter as it is, and it is hoped will not be greatly increased by fresh arrivals. Shipments from home however, are keeping up in a remarkable manner, the export for the first half of this month being 11,000,000 pieces of Plain Cottons. The productions of the local Mills are naturally being affected to some extent by the general depression now existing here with all Imports and prices have fallen about six taels per bale, on which basis business has been done this week. The high rate of native interest is interfering somewhat with business. Cotton is coming in freely and is obtainable on slightly easier terms. There was a perceptible diminution in the quantities offered at the Ewo Auction yesterday, and prices responded accordingly. The full quantity was sold at Yuen Fong this morning with less satisfactory results.

METALS, 29th October.—(From Messrs. Alex. Belfeld & Co.'s. Report.)—In metals, owing to the somewhat better feeling reported as prevailing in the home markets, there has been an easier tone during the past few days, but very little business has resulted, most of the improvement being manifested in enquiries. On the other hand, the dealers, who have made contracts for forward delivery, have in the main settled their exchange, and are now, as a consequence, awaiting the arrival of their cargo with patience, the only remaining anxiety being the price they will be able to command when selling. The very high rate of native interest prevailing, as high as 8 mace a day, or nearly 30 per cent per annum, combined with the state of the exchange market, fully account for the very flat tone that is at present prevailing in Shanghai, and, indeed, over the whole Far East. The following sales have been effected:—100 tons Sohiers Exp. N.R. at 135s. c.i.f., 100 tons Pig Iron at 47/6, s. c.i.f.,

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 3rd November.—There are no special features nor any material change to report since the date of last report. Business has been somewhat restricted by tightness of money and the Shanghai race meeting, which last has almost entirely stopped the usual interport business.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghaies are enquired for in small odd lots at 180 per cent. prem., after small sales at 179, but larger lots are obtainable; some small cash sales have taken place at 179 and 180, and a few time sales at equivalent rates for December and January. Nationals have continued in demand but without business at \$23.

MARINE INSURANCES.—All continue dull and without business. China Traders, Unions, and Cantons are obtainable at quotation, and Northern Insurances also remain inactive with small sales of North Chinas in the North at Tls. 198 and Tls. 200.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are unchanged and without business at \$367½. Chinas have found buyers at \$107½ and close quiet at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have changed hands at \$30 for cash and at \$31 and \$31½ for January and February delivery, the market closing steady at \$30 cash. Indo-Chinas have been the medium of a fair business during the week at \$51 and \$51½, Shanghai being the chief seller; the stock closes steady. Douglasses remain unchanged with no business. The Company has finally decided to build a new steamer to be called the *Hai Ching*. China Manilas and China Mutuals are unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Panjoms have ruled quite neglected with sellers and no buyers at \$4. It was decided at the meeting held on the 27th ultimo to reconstruct the Company. Charbonnages have found buyers and are enquired for at \$110, but holders refuse to part. The Company's sales of Coal have largely increased of late, and there is now no difficulty in disposing of both lump and dust at remunerative prices. New Balmorals remain quiet with only small and unimportant sales at quotations. Olivers B have changed hands at \$7.75 and close steady. Jelebus have ruled quiet at quotation with small sales. Raubs, continuing in demand at \$20½ without sellers, the rate gradually rose to \$23, after fair sales at \$21½, \$22, and \$22½; later, however, on the approach of settlements, the rate again weakened to \$21½ and \$21½, at which shares changed hands in fair lots. The market closes firm at \$21.75. Written advices from Singapore state that a better crushing than last may be expected for September and October, and that it will probably amount to 2,000 oz.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have continued steady to strong and in fair demand; sales have been made at \$154, \$154½, and \$155, the market closing steady at \$155½. Luzons have again been dealt in at advancing rates, sales having taken place at \$37, \$38, \$39, \$40, and \$42, market closing steady at the last rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Stocks under this heading continue neglected. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been on offer at 227 per cent. prem. without leading to business, but a small time business has been put through for December and January at 233 and 236 per cent. prem., market closing with cash and time sellers at rates somewhat under these. In Kowloon Wharves and Wanchais there is no business to report.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found small buyers at \$75, Hotels at \$48, West Points at \$21½, and Humphreys at \$9.75, all closing quiet with probable sellers at quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have ruled quiet and more or less neglected at quotations. Watsons have found small buyers at \$12½, but more shares are obtainable at the rate. Ewos have changed hands locally at Tls. 111 and sales are reported in Shanghai at Tls. 112 and Tls. 112½. At a meeting held in Shanghai the increase of capital was agreed to and it was announced that the General Managers upon the extra capital being subscribed would reduce their commissions by one half. The Chairman also announced that a dividend at the rate of from 7 to 8 per cent. per annum would shortly be

EXCHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd November.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	.....	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	.....	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	.....	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	.....	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	.....	1/11
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	.....	1/11

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.39½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.43

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.93½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	144½
Bank, on demand	145

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	144½
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Bank, on demand	145
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ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	74½
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Private, 30 days' sight	74½
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ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	6½ % pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	4½ % pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	par.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.36
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GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53.50
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paid. Other Cotton Mills and stocks under this heading have ruled quiet and without business.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Sh'hai...	\$125	\$348.75, sal. & b.
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$23, buyers
Founders' Shares...	£1	\$23, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$1554, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 111, sales & b.
Hongkong	\$20	\$18, sellers
International	Tls. 160	Tls. 122, buyers
Lacu Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 114
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 575
Yahloong	Tls. 70	Tls. 72
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$4.75, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$28.25 [& sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$30], ex. N.I., sales
Do. New Issue.....	\$24	\$154, sales
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$104, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$112, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$48, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$170, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$226 p. ct. prem. [=
Insurances—		
Canton.....	\$50	\$160, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$107½, sal. & sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$73, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$367½
North-China	£25	Tls. 118, sales & b.
Straits	\$20	\$184, sellers
Union	\$25	\$230, sellers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$155, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$75, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.75, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$3.9, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$214, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$12, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Frs. 500	\$110, sales
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	6, sales
Do. Do.	\$22	\$2.90, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.20, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.30, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.40, sal. & sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$20
Do. B.	\$24	\$7.80, sal. & buyers
Punjomi	\$4	\$4, sales & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40
Rauls	13s. 10d.	\$21.75, sales
New Amoy Deck	\$10	\$18
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$77, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	\$2 17s. sales
Do. Preference...	£10	\$7 10s. sales
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$80, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$51½, sales
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$16, nominal
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$57½	\$44½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12½, sales & sellers
J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.		

SHANGHAI, 29th October.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Business has been a little more active this week, with not much change in rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business has been done at 183½ and 184 per cent premium for cash, and for December delivery at 188 per cent premium. Cash shares were also sold to Hongkong at 179. We quote 186 per cent premium as the closing cash rate. National Bank of China—Shares have been in demand in the South at \$22 for Ordinary and the same price for Founders' shares. Marine Insurance.—No business is reported. Unions are offering at \$230, Traders at \$73, North Chinas at Tls. 202½, Yangtsze at \$155, and Cartons at \$160. Strenths are steady at \$19. Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been in demand, chiefly for the South, and business has been done at Tls. 37, Tls. 37½, and to Hongkong at \$50½ and \$51. We quote Tls. 38.25 as the closing rate. Sugar Companies.—China Sugar Refining shares changed hands at \$155 and \$156 for cash and for September delivery

at \$158 and \$162. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are wanted at \$36. Mining.—A number of Sheridans were placed at Tls. 2½, and more are wanted. A sale of Ribus at \$25 is reported. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were sold at Tls. 170, Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares at Tls. 90, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at Tls. 120 and Tls. 119. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares found a purchaser at Tls. 91. There are sellers at the same price. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were sold at Tls. 35. In Cotton Mill shares, Ewos were placed at Tls. 110/112½ cash and Tls. 115 for December; and Internationals at Tls. 122 cash and Tls. 125 for December. China Flour Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 58. American Cigarette shares were placed at Tls. 90, and are wanted. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Several transactions were done in Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 205 cash and 11½, 212½/210 for December. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 92, Tls. 91, Tls. 90, and Tls. 88 cash, at Tls. 93 and Tls. 92 for November, and Tls. 101/100 for March. Shanghai-Langkat shares were dealt in at Tls. 45½/440 cash, 480/475 for December, and Tls. 525, Tls. 530, Tls. 550 and Tls. 525 for March.

Frejr—Danish steamer, 416 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, at \$2,500 per month.

China—German steamer, 1,275 tons, monthly, 8 months, at \$5,200 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Sunda (str.), Kintuck (str.), Teucer (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—City of Peking (str.), New York, Doric (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.). For NEW YORK.—Drometan, Abner Coburn (str.), Agenor, Saint Ninian (str.), Cromarty (str.), Saint Mark.

For TACOMA.—Tacoma (str.).

For SEATTLE.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

For PORTLAND.—Lombard (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Omi Maru (str.), Chingtu (str.).

For BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Telena (str.), Caledonien (str.), Wakasa Maru (str.), Wally (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

October— ARR' VALS.

- 26. Taksang, British str., from Newchwang.
- 27. Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 27. Formosa, British str., from London.
- 27. Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 27. Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 27. Nanchang, British str., from Newcastle.
- 27. Marie Jebsen, German str., from K'notzu.
- 27. Else, German str., from Haiphong.
- 27. Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 27. Cromarty, British str., from Sourabaya.
- 27. Tacoma, British str., from Tacoma.
- 27. Hong Leong, British str., from Straits.
- 28. Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 28. Woosung, British str., from Canton.
- 28. Kalgan, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 28. Progress, German str., from Newchwang.
- 28. Letembro, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 28. Vindobona, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 28. Tancarville, British str., from Sumatra.
- 29. Suisang, British str., from Calentta.
- 29. Framnes, Norw. str., from Canton.
- 29. Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., from S'pore.
- 29. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.
- 30. Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., from Moji.
- 30. Wosang, British str., from Canton.
- 30. Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 30. Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 30. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 30. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
- 30. Australian, British str., from Kobe.
- 30. Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 30. Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 30. Onsang, British str., from Java.
- 30. Macduff, British str., from Yokohama.
- 30. Linnet, British gunboat, from Foochow.
- 30. Niji Novgorod, Russian str., from S'pore.
- 30. Phra C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
- 30. Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
- 31. Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 31. Cosmopolit, German str., from Hongay.
- 31. Fooksang, British str., from Newchang.
- 31. Gerda, German str., from Moji.
- 31. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 31. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 31. Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 31. Nanyo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 31. Rosetta, British str., from Bombay.
- 31. Sherard Osborn, British str., from Manila.
- 31. Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 31. Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 31. Dante, German str., from Saigon.

November—

- 1. Taksang, British str., from Canton.
- 1. Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
- 1. Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 1. Piugching, Chinese cruiser, from Swatow.
- 1. City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F'cisco.
- 1. Deucalion, British str., from Sandakan.
- 1. Petrarch, German str., from Iloilo.
- 1. Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
- 2. Empress of India, Brit. str., from V'couver.
- 2. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 2. Thames, British str., from Shanghai.
- 2. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 2. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 2. Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
- 2. Thokla, German str., from Hamburg.
- 2. Progress, German str., from Cantor.
- 2. Archer, British cruiser, from Nagasaki.
- 2. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.

2, Krim, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
3, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
3, Kalgan, British str., from Canton.
3, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
3, Glenartney, British str., from Japan.
3, Tancred, Norw. str., from Newchwang.

October—DEPARTURES.

27, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
27, Sungkhang, British str., for Amoy.
27, Kaifong, British str., for Tientsin.
27, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
27, Melbourne, French str., for Shanghai, &c.
27, Victoria, Swedish str., for Rangoon.
27, Beumohr, British str., for Nagasaki.
27, Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
27, Sydney, French str., for Europe.
27, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
27, Ulysses, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Atlantic, German bark, for Rajang.
28, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
28, Aztec, Hawaiian str., for Yokohama.
28, Chunsang, British str., for Kobe.
28, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
28, Falkenburg, German str., for Saigon.
28, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
28, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
28, Socotra, British str., for London.
28, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
28, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
29, Framnes, Norw. str., for P. Wallut.
29, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
29, Taichow, British str., for Bangkok.
29, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
29, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
29, Progress, German str., for Canton.
30, Tancarville, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Isaac Reed, Amer. ship, for Baltimore.
30, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
30, Lyemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
31, Else, German str., for Yokohama.
31, Macduff, British str., for New York.
31, Propontis, British str., for Saigon.
31, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
31, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Kobe.
31, Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.
31, N. Novgorod, Russian str., for V'ostock.

November—

1, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
1, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
1, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
1, Chingping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
1, Chowfa, British str., for Bangkok.
1, Cosmopolit, German str., for Swatow.
1, Fooksang, British str., for Canton.
1, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
1, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
1, Panther, Austrian cruiser, for Saigon.
2, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
2, Roseita, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Taksang, British str., for Foochow.
2, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
2, Chowta, British str., for Bangkok.
2, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
2, Nanchang, British str., for Yokohama.
2, Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
2, Yamaguchi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
3, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
3, Dante, German str., for Kobe.
3, Gov. Robie, Amer. ship, for New York.
3, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
3, Iolani, Hawaiian bark, for Baltimore.
3, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
3, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
3, Undaunted, British cruiser, for a cruise.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Esmeralda, from Manila—Mrs. and Miss Parson, Mrs. E. Coney and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, Miss Hogg, and Mr. Lorentz Alison.

Per Melbourne, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Fathers Giuseppe Carabelli and Filipino Deila, and Mr. A. Charbonnier; from Singapore, Messrs. A. J. McClure, John Carrall, Yap Chu Pang, Lee Ah Cuck, Rev. and Mrs. Sharp, Mr. Loh Moh Watt, Mrs. Roth and 2 daughters, Messrs. H. Koek and Chang Ah Kun.

Per Thales, from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Capt. Carley.

Per Formosa, for Hongkong from London—Mr. and Mrs. Dowler and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Wyon, Miss Wyon, Mrs. Whitty and 2 children, Mrs. Lawless, Messrs. Jones, Burke, Humphreys, Mercer, and Fothergill, Lieut.

Beal, R. N., Mrs. Walkinshaw, for Shanghai from London, Mrs. R. D. Watt and 3 children, Mr. Bremner, Miss Easam, and Mr. King; for Yokohama from Singapore, Mr. Somerville.

Per Fushun, from Shanghai—Mrs. Jules, Mr. Maunax.

Per Hong Leong, from Straits, Mr. G. F. Campbell.

Per Tacoma, from Tacoma, Misses Clara Martin, Mary Jackson and F. N. Worley, Mr. John Harvie, and Mrs. T. A. Whistler and child.

Per Suisang, from Calcutta, Mr. Lane, Mr. Davison, Mr. Spears, and 489 Chinese.

Per Kugoshima Maru, from Seattle, &c., Mr. T. Henderson.

Per Australian, from Kobe, Dr. and Mrs. Kortum and 3 children, Mrs. Cox, Miss Cox, Mrs. Helms, Messrs. Playfair, Halifax and Thompson.

Per Chouyang, from Shanghai, &c., General and Mrs. Black, Mrs. Macnair, Mr. Ogilvey.

Per Loongmoon, from Shanghai, Mrs. Cunningham, Messrs. Cunningham, Schumann, Olms, Müller, Johannsen, and Dr. Riedel.

Per Rosetta, for Hongkong from London, Miss Gatrell, Mrs. Harvie, and Major Grant Dalton; from Gibraltar, Mr. Barboga; from Brindisi, Mr. C. Hawkins; from Colombo, Miss Wade, Mr. H. Logan; from Penang, Mrs. Lo Ah Sam, Messrs. W. N. Dow, G. F. Curtis, R. McKenzie, and T. A. C. Hawkin; from Singapore, Messrs. P. Avyage, W. B. Kenrick, Whitley, A. B. Hubback, T. R. Hubback, E. H. Newbronner, C. Glassford, H. L. Talbot, F. W. Talbot, Justice Leach, G. J. Stevens, Capt. A. J. Woodroffe, Mr. J. G. Mactaggart, Mrs. Leach, Miss Sharp, Messrs. Poh Seng Leong, Yap Leon Guan, and G. W. Frost; for Shanghai from London, Misses Crittal, Goymonde, Haacks, J. Gold, E. Churcher, C. Angcock, F. Page, E. Guthrie, Davidge, Harwood, Culverwell, Crowl, and Sherwood, Mrs. Simmonds, Miss Hodgson, Mr. and Mrs. Shorrock, Messrs. W. Beck, E. Mitchell, O. Leitch, Wain, and Hunter; from Brindisi, Mr. Tochberman, Rev. and Mrs. Robertson; from Bombay, Messrs. Meer Ahmed, Sudderlin, Mahomed Ahson, Faqul Ahmed; from Penang, Mr. W. H. Bell; from Singapore, Mr. Mah Gee Liang; for Yokohama from London, Messrs. J. A. Healing and J. Gillingham; from Bombay, Mrs. Robinson and infant.

Per Verona, from Yokohama for Singapore, Mr. G. S. Rollison, Mrs. Maxwell; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins and infant; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Newman; for London, Miss R. Marshall; from Nagasaki for Hongkong, Misses Sakaguchi and N. Moringa, and Mr. A. Anderson; for Singapore, Mrs. Mori, Miss Murase.

Per City of Peking, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Schwerin and child, Mrs. H. W. Ellicott, Messrs. J. E. Thompson, G. de Rivas, J. S. Van Buren, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Howard, Mr. T. D. McKay, Miss Kate Johnson, Messrs. L. C. de Rosario, H. T. Stillman, Mrs. C. H. McGilvory, Rev. Dr. W. H. Dobson, Mr. C. Prakke, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bushby and infant, and Mr. A. Fair.

Per Deucalion, from Sandakan, Dr. and Mrs. Walker and children, Messrs. Crandall, Gerken and Walker.

Per Zafiro, from Manila, Mr. F. J. Bishop, Misses R. Vemberg, and L. Leffy.

Per Thames, for London from Shanghai, Mr. Dalton Hutchinson and Mr. and Mrs. Belcher and child; for Brindisi, Messrs. F. Storey and C. Storey; for Singapore, Mr. W. R. Hodder; for Hongkong, Mr. J. F. Fredricks, Miss M. E. Booth and Paymaster W. Wallis, R.N.

Per Empress of India, from Vancouver, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Groesbeck, Lieut. O. T. Webber, Mr. and Mrs. C. Whitney, Mr. H. B. Ede, Capt. R. F. Leesh, Capt. F. R. Loveland, Miss Black, W. Boffey, G. Copeman, T. Haggard, Rev. J. C. Gibson, Dr. and Mrs. Munro, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Denton, Mr. B. Everest, Miss Everest, Mr. S. L. Moore, Messrs. Webb Vincent, P. Paravicini, F. Ubaldi, Lieut. R. G. King, Mr. and Mrs. Langhammer, Mr. Kong Shin Shun, Mrs. Kong Ng Si, Lieut. M. D. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Wahlron, Messrs. C. H. Nugent and A. Bannerman.

DEPARTED.

Per Chongsha, for Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Master Mitchell, Messrs. C. Tringham,

H. Berrill, J. F. Möller, J. Walker, and Lau- bier.

Per Empress of China, for Shanghai—Messrs. J. J. Francis, D. M. Moses, I. Grodtmann, A. Haupt, W. Taylor, A. P. MacEwen, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Chalmers, Miss Craig, Mr. Lau Do Yee; for Kobe, Miss L. Williams, Miss M. Williams, Miss A. M. Baldwin, Miss Hazelton, and Mr. Y. Okita; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Leiria, Mrs. A. M. Chalmers, Mr. S. Komor, Mr. W. Vaughan Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, Rev. and Mrs. A. F. Sharp; for Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dwight, and Miss Wong; for Montreal, Mrs. F. S. Warren; for Boston, Mrs. Tin Gin, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Sing; for London, Rev. and Mrs. Mackenzie Stuart, Mr. H. W. Robertson; from Yokohama for London, Mr. A. Stead.

Per Sydney, from Hongkong for Saigon, Messrs. Henry Sledge and Assin; for Singapore, Messrs. Ernest Heldring and F. Abdeally, Madam K. Smith, Madam B. J. Medina and child, and Mr. Chan Sun-tong; for Marseilles, Madam Courtin and 2 children, Messrs. E. Martinez, R. A. da Rocha, and Aug. Charbonnier; from Shanghai for Saigon, Mr. Cudenet; for Marseilles, Mr. Harmand and family (French Minister), Messrs. Doyère, Herne, Vinsot, Durand, Douxami, Cretin, Lestienan, Outin, Wino- grondoff, Goedkoop, Fngü, and Fugirara.

Per Melbourne, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Messrs. F. Marcal, l'Abbé J. A. Raclot, H. J. H. Kirchhoff, Madam E. M. Collaco, Mr. R. Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. D. Allemao and child, Madam E. Carneiro, and Madam R. Roth; for Kobe, Mr. H. A. Koek; for Yokohama, Mr. Savouret.

Per Sungkhang, for Manila, Mr. Charvet, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Messrs. B. Taylor, F. Forrest, and J. C. Arenas.

Per Kaiyong, for Tientsin, Mr. S. J. Blinman.

Per Catherine Anne, for Calcutta, Messrs. A. G. Twidle, Maharajah Nymen Sing, J. R. Hollom, Perryman, John Stephen and Baboo Rum Math; for Straits, Mr. De Silva, Mrs. Lai Ng, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Pun, Mrs. Cheung Foon, Mrs. Fung Sam, Mr. and Mrs. Tang Sang.

Per Nanyang, for Amoy, Mrs. Helm and 5 children; for Foochow, Mr. B. Emsley.

Per Gaelic, for Shanghai, Miss F. Lynwood; for Nagasaki, Lieut. A. F. Blake, R.N.; for Kobe, Messrs. K. A. Stevens and Cheong Poo Cho; for Yokohama, Messrs. V. H. Deacon, Geo. B. Epner, and Stanford; for Honolulu, Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Hyde; for San Francisco, Miss Grace H. Webb, Miss Miller, Messrs. P. L. Markell, Geo. P. Campbell, and J. Silverston, Mr. and Mrs. L. Anderson, Mr. Wescott, Miss Carlson, Miss J. E. Kirk, and Mr. J. Carroll.

Per Formosa, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Mr. R. D. Watt; from London, Mrs. Watt, 2 children and infant, Mr. Bremner, Miss Easam, and Mr. King; from Singapore for Yokohama, Mr. Somerville.

Per Esmeralda, for Manila, Messrs. Carlos Gsell, Remigio Perez, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Paulina Perica and 2 daughters, Messrs. W. Robbins, Julio P. Alonso, and J. Louzaga.

Per Taksang, for Foochow, Mrs. Walkinshaw.

Per Yuensang, for Amoy, Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton.

Per Rosetta, for Shanghai from Hongkong, Messrs. F. N. Firth and James Ware and child; from London, Misses Crittall, Grumonde, Haacks, Gold, E. Churcher, C. Angvik, F. Page, E. Guthrie, Davidge, Harwood, Culverwell, Crowl, Sherwood, and Hodges, Mrs. Shimmonds, Mr. and Mrs. Shorrock, Messrs. W. Beck, E. Mitchell, O. Leitch, Wain and Hunter; from Brindisi, Mr. Tochberman, Rev. and Mrs. Robertson; from Penang, Mr. W. H. Bell; from Singapore, Mr. Mah Geediang; for Yokohama from Hongkong, Messrs. T. Nakamura, R. W. Almond and Grant; from London, Messrs. J. Gillingham and J. A. Healing; from Bombay, Mr. Robinson and infant; from Singapore, Mr. W. B. Kenrick.

Per Yamaguchi Maru, from Hongkong for Singapore, Dr. H. Yamaguchi, Messrs. C. J. Demer, C. Prakke, and H. L. Davies; from Japan for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Mashima, and Mr. J. Takase.

Per Formosa, for Swatow, Mrs. Schluter; for Tamsui, Messrs. K. Hayano, K. Komatsu, and Y. Kawai.

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